

Borough of



Cheltenham

ANNUAL REPORT

ON THE

Health of Cheltenham

Vital Statistics, Sanitary Work, &c.

FOR THE YEAR

1956

BY

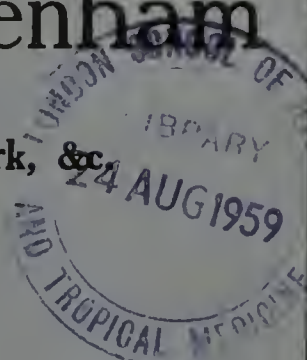
T. O. P. D. LAWSON, M.D., D.R.C.O.G., D.P.H.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
AND SCHOOL MEDICAL OFFICER

Together with the Report of
J. F. URSELL, D.P.A., M.I.P.H.E., F.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H.

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

"Salus Populi Suprema Lex"



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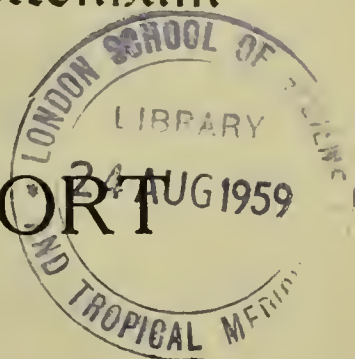
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16.12.57

mbg

Constitution of Committees as at 31st December, 1956

Health Committee

Alderman LT.-COL. C. W. BIGGS, O.B.E. (*Chairman*)

Alderman A. J. BETTRIDGE (*Vice-Chairman*)

Councillor C. C. BARLOW

Councillor R. F. BROOKES

Councillor W. BULLINGHAM

Councillor A. DODWELL

Councillor C. G. IRVING

Councillor J. W. O. POPE

Councillor Mrs. J. RAWLINGS

Councillor T. M. RUCK

Councillor A. E. TRIGG

MEDICAL AND SCHOOL ATTENDANCE SUB-COMMITTEE

Councillor F. L. CARTER (*Chairman*)

Councillor A. G. DYE

Councillor D. W. J. GRAZIER

Rev. H. E. B. HILLARY

Miss D. HORTON

Mrs. I. M. B. JAMES

Councillor H. G. JAMES

Councillor J. W. O. POPE

Mr. L. J. RICHARDS

Councillor A. W. A. TAYLOR

Health Department Staff

(as at 31.12.56)

Medical Officer of Health	} <i>Thomas O. P. D. Lawson, M.D., D.R.C.O.G., D.P.H.</i>
School Medical Officer	
Divisional Medical Officer	
Deputy Medical Officer of Health	} <i>A. Parry Jones, M.B., B.Ch., D.P.H.</i>
Assistant School Medical Officer	
Assistant School Medical Officer	
	<i>Brenda G. King, M.B., B.S., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.</i>
Chief Public Health Inspector	<i>J. F. Ursell, D.P.A., M.I.P.H.E., F.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H.*†</i>
Deputy Chief Public Health Inspector	<i>A. L. Jones, M.A.P.H.I., San.Science R.S.H.*†</i>
District Inspectors	<i>G. J. C. Buck, M.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H.*† A. H. Carling, M.A.P.H.I., A.R.S.H.*† R. Hullab*† H. Stone, M.A.P.H.I.*† R. J. Wintle, M.A.P.H.I., A.R.S.H.*†</i>
School Dentists	<i>A. J. Lane, L.D.S. A. W. McCarthy, L.D.S.</i>
School Clinic Nurses	<i>Nurse M. Laffineur, S.R.N., R.F.N. Nurse M. S. Read, S.R.N. Nurse A. Wood, S.R.N.</i>
Chief Clerk	<i>W. H. G. Meakins</i>
Senior Clerk	<i>D. Y. Harrison</i>
Medical Officer of Health's Secretary	<i>Miss G. W. Hiron</i>
Chief Public Health Inspector's Secretary	<i>Miss M. E. J. Edden</i>
Clerical Assistants	<i>Mrs. R. L. Langton Mrs M. Rogers</i>
School Clinic Clerks	<i>Miss J. Beach Miss A. Clark Miss M. Thomas</i>
School Dental Attendants	<i>Mrs. P. J. McLauchlan Mrs. H. Tonks</i>
Enquiry Office Clerk	<i>Miss M. P. Elam</i>
Shorthand Typist	<i>Miss G. Kear</i>
Junior Clerk	<i>Miss B. A. Reynolds</i>
Pupil	<i>T. W. Camsey</i>
Disinfection Officer	<i>G. Cross</i>

* Certified Meat and Foods Inspector, R.S.H.

† Public Health Inspector's Education Board Certificate.

NOTE—For Rodent Control and Abattoir staff see Report of Chief Public Health Inspector, page 65.

Annual Report on the Health of the Borough of Cheltenham for the Year 1956

*To His Worship the Mayor, the Aldermen and Councillors of the
Borough of Cheltenham.*

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report of the Borough of Cheltenham for the year 1956.

The health of the Borough during the year has been very satisfactory and there is no event of major importance to report. The town has been singularly free from serious epidemics and unlike the previous year, there were no cases of paralytic poliomyelitis. One case of the non-paralytic type was notified but recovery was uneventful and uncomplicated.

A detailed account of the infant mortality rate will be found in the Report. As I stated last year, this is a matter which has been causing some concern and still continues to do so. The death rate of infants under one year of age in Cheltenham still compares unfavourably with the national average and the county rate, but at least there has been some improvement on the 1955 figure. Every effort is being made to deal with this problem and although the infant mortality rate for 1956 is the lowest ever recorded, it is not yet low enough for Cheltenham.

There has been no major outbreak of any of the common infectious diseases throughout the year. Once again, the town has been completely free from diphtheria and, as will be noted in the Report, there has been a further increase in the number of immunisations. The tuberculosis picture continues to be very satisfactory, the incidence of the disease and the death rate being the lowest ever recorded in the town.

The following is a short summary of the more important aspects of the public health in Cheltenham during the year.

Infant Mortality

The infant mortality rate, i.e., the number of infants who died in the first year of life per 1,000 live births, is 27·8; this is an improvement on last year's rate which was 30·22. Thirty-three (33) infants died in the first year of life, one less than last year. Although the reduction in

actual numbers is very small, the increased birth rate contributes to the lower infant mortality rate. Also there were fewer premature baby deaths. The rate for England and Wales during the year was 23.8 and that for the County 19.8, so that the comparison is still unfavourable, especially with the county rate. There is still room for considerable improvement before we can be satisfied with the results of the efforts we are making to reduce the number of infant deaths in the town. It should be pointed out that the Infant Mortality Rate shown in this Report, differs from that shown in the report of the County Medical Officer of Health. The original number of infant deaths in Cheltenham, recorded by the Registrar General (34) was queried and it was only after the Health Report for the County had been published that it was confirmed the number of deaths recorded by the Registrar General was one more than the actual number (33).

Further comment on the infant mortality rate will be found in the appropriate section of the Report.

Diphtheria

There were no notifications of diphtheria in the town during the year.

Tuberculosis

There has been a reduction once again in the number of notifications of pulmonary tuberculosis, the total number being 34 as compared with 46 the previous year. There were only 7 deaths from all forms of the disease as compared with 9 during 1955. These figures are the lowest ever recorded in the Borough and are a very favourable index of the state of the health of the community.

Other Infectious Diseases

The incidence of infectious disease during the year was of no special significance. The total number of notifications was lower than the previous year.

Maternal Mortality

No expectant mother died during the year as a result of pregnancy or confinement or of any condition associated with pregnancy or confinement.

Other Vital Statistics

Once again there has been a small increase in the population of the town which has now passed the 68,000 level. Ten years ago the population of the Borough was 61,810. There has thus been a recorded increase of 6,200 during this period. The number of births has likewise increased during 1956 and the birth rate has risen from 16.61 per 1,000 population in 1955, to 17.45 in 1956. The rate for England and Wales during the same year was 15.6. The death rate per 1,000 population (12.69) shows a small increase over the previous year (12.05). The corresponding rate for England and Wales was 11.7.

Housing

Close co-operation has been maintained between the Health and Housing Committees and appropriate recommendations made where houses have been considered unfit for health reasons. Now that the more important infectious diseases are gradually being eliminated, housing is playing an ever increasing part in the improvement of the standard of health of the community. The co-operation of the Housing Committee on these matters is of very great assistance and their help is most welcome.

I would like once again to express my sincere appreciation of the support and encouragement I have received from the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee and for the ready co-operation from all Members and Officers of the Council. It is a pleasure also to record the loyal support I continue to receive from every member of the staff of the Health Department and especially the very helpful advice and assistance of Mr. J. F. Ursell, Chief Public Health Inspector. The hospital authorities and the general practitioners have continued to contribute in large measure to the smooth running of the health services of the town and I greatly appreciate their co-operation. My thanks are again due to Dr. J. A. Pitt-Evans, Pathologist, Cheltenham General Hospital and his laboratory staff for their willing response to the many calls we make on their services, which are of such valuable assistance to the Health Department.

To the many voluntary organisations in Cheltenham which do so much good work in the town, I express my thanks and appreciation on behalf of the Department. We are only too happy to co-operate with them. Lastly my thanks are due to the Press whose ready co-operation and assistance in all matters concerning the health of the community, is a constant help.

I am indebted to Mr. W. H. G. Meakins, Chief Clerk, who is responsible for the compilation of the statistical data for the Report.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

T. O. P. D. LAWSON,

Medical Officer of Health.

SUMMARY OF GENERAL AND VITAL STATISTICS, 1956

Area of Borough	...	...	...	...	...	5,146 acres
Population	Census 1951, Corrected Figure					62,823
	Mid-year, 1956. Registrar General's Estimate					68,010
Number of inhabited houses (as at 31.3.57)	(a) Houses and Flats					20,008
	(b) Flats, Hotels, Occupied Shops, etc.					651
Rateable Value (as at 31.3.56)	...	...	...	...	...	£616,615
Sum represented by a penny rate (1956-57)	...	...	...	...	...	£5,226

TABULAR STATEMENT OF THE MAIN VITAL STATISTICS FOR 1956

(with comparative Figures for England and Wales and other Great Towns).

	M	F	Totals	Rates per 1,000 Population		
Live Births						
Legitimate	577	534	1111			
Illegitimate	44	32	76	Cheltenham	160 Great Towns including London (average)	England and Wales
TOTALS	621	566	1187	17.45	15.6	15.6
Still Births						
Legitimate	14	11	25	} 23.05 Per 1,000	23.0	23.0
Illegitimate	1	2	3		Total (Live & Still)	Births
TOTALS	15	13	28	0.41	0.37	0.37
DEATHS	393	470	863	12.69	11.6	11.7
Deaths of Infants (Under 1 yr. of age)						
Legitimate	20	12	32	} Rates per 1,000 Live Births		
Illegitimate	1	—	1			
TOTALS	21	12	33	27.8	24.0	23.8
Maternal Deaths	—	—	—	—	{ Rates per 1000 Live and Still Births }	0.56

NOTE ON TABULAR STATEMENT

The figures for births and deaths are corrected for inward and outward transfers in order that the statistics may give as true a picture as possible of local conditions.

MAIN VITAL STATISTICS—10 YEAR PERIOD 1947-56 (inclusive).

CHELTENHAM					INFANT DEATH RATES Per 1,000 Live Births			TOTAL DEATHS	DEATH RATE Per 1,000 of Population				
YEAR	Estimated Population RG	No. of Births	Birth Rate per 1000 population	Total Deaths of Infants (under 1 year of age)	Cheltenham	Large Towns	England and Wales	Cheltenham	Cheltenham		England and Wales	Tuberculosis (Cheltenham)	
									Recorded	Corrected		Pulmonary	Other
1947	61810	1313	21.2	56	42.6	47	41	926	15.0	12.3	12.0	0.34	0.097
1948	64260	1099	17.1	35	31.8	39	34	770	12.0	9.8	10.8	0.45	0.03
1949	64150	1123	17.5	34	30.3	37	32	806	12.56	11.2	11.7	0.33	0.00
1950	64600	1033	15.99	43	41.63	33.8	29.8	822	12.72	11.3	11.6	0.23	0.046
1951	65080	1068	16.4	36	33.7	33.9	29.6	904	13.89	12.22	12.5	0.25	0.046
1952	65060	1113	17.1	38	34.14	31.2	27.6	830	12.76	11.23	11.3	0.108	0.046
1953	66210	1077	16.3	33	30.64	30.8	26.8	842	12.72	11.18	11.4	0.166	0.045
1954	67450	1132	16.78	33	29.15	29.02	25.5	877	13.0	10.66	11.3	0.119	0.029
1955	67730	1125	16.61	34	30.22	25.1	24.9	816	12.05	9.88	11.7	0.118	0.015
1956	68010	1187	17.45	33	27.8	24.0	23.8	863	12.69	11.17	11.7	0.10 3	0.00

NOTES ON VITAL STATISTICS FOR 1956

Population

The Registrar's estimate of the population of Cheltenham for mid-year 1956 is 68,010 which is 280 more than the estimate for 1955.

Death Rate

The Crude Death Rate was 12·69, a slightly higher figure than that of last year. The corrected Death Rate (Registrar's correction factor 0·88) was 11·17 compared with the figure of 11·7 for England and Wales.

Birth Rate

Live Births in 1956 totalled 1187 which is 62 more than the figure for the previous year.

The Birth Rate was 17·45 and is the highest figure since 1949. The Registrar now provides a correction factor for birth rates. For Cheltenham this factor is 0·97 which gives a rate of 16·92 compared with the rate of 15·6 for England and Wales.

The number of Still births, per 1,000 live and still births, was 23·05 (or 22·36 corrected) compared with 23·0 for England and Wales.

Causes of Death relating to Cheltenham Residents as given by the Registrar-General for the year 1956.

						<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>
1	Tuberculosis, respiratory ... ..	...	...	...	...	5	2
2	Tuberculosis, other ... .	...	...	...	...	—	—
3	Syphilitic disease ... ..	...	...	...	...	1	—
4	Diphtheria ... ..	...	...	...	...	—	—
5	Whooping Cough ... ..	...	...	...	...	1	—
6	Meningococcal infections ... ..	...	...	...	...	—	—
7	Acute Poliomyelitis ... ..	...	...	...	...	—	—
8	Measles ... ..	...	...	...	...	—	—
9	Other infective and parasitic diseases ... ..	...	...	...	...	1	1
10	Malignant neoplasm, stomach ... ..	...	...	...	...	2	14
11	Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus ... ..	...	...	...	...	27	6
12	Malignant neoplasm, breast ... ..	...	...	...	...	—	15
13	Malignant neoplasm, uterus ... ..	...	...	...	...	—	5
14	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms ... ..	...	...	...	...	50	43
15	Leukaemia, aleukaemia ... ..	...	...	...	...	2	—
16	Diabetes ... ..	...	...	...	...	2	2
17	Vascular lesions of nervous systems ... ..	...	...	...	...	47	79
18	Coronary disease, angina ... ..	...	...	...	...	71	59
19	Hypertension, with heart disease ... ..	...	...	...	...	8	12
20	Other heart disease ... ..	...	...	...	...	54	100
21	Other circulatory disease ... ..	...	...	...	...	12	17
22	Influenza ... ..	...	...	...	...	—	1
23	Pneumonia ... ..	...	...	...	...	16	22
24	Bronchitis ... ..	...	...	...	...	15	10
						Total carried forward	314 388

							<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>
					Total brought forward		314	388
25	Other diseases of respiratory system	...	...	...	...		1	2
26	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	...	...	...	...		6	1
27	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	...	...	...	...		4	3
28	Nephritis and nephrosis	...	...	...	...		3	3
29	Hyperplasia of prostate	...	...	...	...		15	—
30	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	...	...	...	...		—	—
31	Congenital malformations	...	...	...	...		2	5
32	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	...	...	...	...		36	47
33	Motor vehicle accidents	...	...	...	...		2	4
34	All other accidents	...	...	...	...		5	13
35	Suicide	...	...	...	...		5	4
36	Homicide and operations of war	...	...	...	...		—	—
All Causes							393	470

DISCUSSION

Heart Disease

Heart disease continues to be the greatest cause of death; the number of such deaths (304) being a slight increase on last year (291). What is more significant is the fact that 130 of those deaths (over 40%) were due to disease of the coronary arteries.

Cancer

Deaths from cancer have increased from 137 last year, to 162 in 1956. Deaths from cancer of the lung have increased by 10 to a total of 33 during the year. It is not so very long ago that the major killing disease of the lungs was respiratory tuberculosis. It is interesting to note that during 1956, the number of deaths from respiratory tuberculosis in England and Wales was 4851. The number of deaths from lung cancer during the same year was 18,185. The reduction in the number of deaths from respiratory tuberculosis has been a striking feature of our national health statistics in recent years. Equally striking is the increase in deaths caused by lung cancer.

Deaths from Accidents

There has been a welcome, if small, reduction in fatal accidents during the year. In recent years the annual average has been over 30. I hope this will be an encouragement to the Road Safety Committee and will show them that their valuable preventive work in this field, has not been without result. The following table shows the position during the last five years.

					<i>Motor Vehicle Accidents</i>	<i>Other Accidents</i>
1952	...	...	...	...	8	11
1953	...	...	...	...	5	25
1954	...	...	...	...	12	22
1955	...	...	...	...	9	21
1956	...	...	...	...	6	18

Infant Mortality

There were 33 infant deaths in 1956 as compared with 34 in 1955. This gives an infant mortality rate of 27·8 which is a reduction on the rate for 1955 (30·22).

Causes of death were as follows :—					<i>Neo-Natal</i>	<i>1 mth-1 yr.</i>	<i>Total</i>
Prematurity	...	...	...	...	16	—	16
Respiratory	...	...	...	...	—	7	7
Congenital Malformation	...	...	...	...	1	2	3
Gastro Enteritis	...	...	...	...	—	2	2
Accidental	...	...	...	...	1	1	2
Other	...	...	...	...	2	1	3
Total					20	13	33

Although the number of infant deaths is only one less than last year, this small reduction, coupled with an increase in the number of births has brought down the infant mortality rate. There has also been some improvement as compared with 1955 in that fewer premature babies died. In 1955, 20 premature babies died (59% of the total infant deaths). This year 16 premature babies died (48% of the total infant deaths). Unfortunately, this reduction was counter balanced by an increase of 6 deaths due to infection, 4 respiratory and 2 gastro-intestinal.

The infant death rate this year is the lowest ever recorded in Cheltenham but it is not low enough. It compares unfavourably with the national rate for England and Wales (23·8) and very unfavourably with the County rate (19·8), which is exceptionally good but would have been even better if it did not include Cheltenham. Infection has played a larger part this year than last. Nine (9) infants died as a result of infection and all infant deaths due to infection are preventable. Once again illegitimacy can be discounted. Only one of the 33 infants was illegitimate. The chief cause of death, as last year, was prematurity.

Of the 16 premature babies who died, 15 died in hospital and one at home; three were born at home and transferred to hospital after birth. These 16 premature babies included two sets of twins and ages at death ranged from 3 minutes to 3 days. Of the nine infants who died of infection, 4 died in hospital and 5 at home. With one exception all were born at home.

Every effort is being made to reduce the number of infant deaths in the town and especially the number of premature baby deaths, although, as will be noted above, this is not the only factor to be considered. The investigation of every infant death, referred to in my report last year, continues, and it is hoped it will reveal some underlying cause or causes which can be remedied. Meanwhile, the domiciliary premature baby service has been reorganised and re-equipped and a domiciliary midwife has been specially trained in the use of the equipment and in the care of the premature baby in the home. The equipment is kept at the Ambulance Station and is available for delivery to any address at any hour on request by a doctor or midwife. The service came into operation

in September and up till the end of the year was called for on three occasions. All the babies were between four and five pounds in weight and when the equipment was withdrawn, had gained satisfactorily and were up to normal weight. I am indebted to Mr. A. E. Jayne, Superintendent, Gloucestershire County Ambulance Service for his co-operation and assistance in the inauguration of this service, which I hope will prove of value.

In order to co-ordinate the investigation of this problem, a committee was set up during the year, consisting of the consultant obstetricians, paediatricians, representatives of the general practitioners, the County Medical Officer of Health and the Borough Medical Officer of Health. All those responsible for the maternity services in the town are now working together to consider every aspect of the care of the expectant mother and the new-born child, and I am confident that, in time, we will find the solution of our problem.

On the whole 1956 has shown an improvement which I hope will continue. Nevertheless, the fact remains that the infant mortality rate in Cheltenham has not been below the national average since 1949.

WATER SUPPLY OF THE BOROUGH

There has been no change of importance in any of the four sources of supply referred to in previous annual reports. Regular samples are taken at all these sources by members of the staff of the Health Department and are submitted for bacteriological and chemical analysis. In addition, one member of the staff is responsible for drawing the Spa Water at the Pump Room, for sterilising and testing and delivering supplies to the Town Hall. All samples of water supplies including Spa waters are examined by Mr. J. Henderson, Analyst to the Cheltenham & Gloucester Joint Water Board, who has provided the following report showing the number of samples examined bacteriologically and chemically during 1956.

A point of interest was noted in the report of the Chief Medical Officer to the Ministry of Health for the year 1955. An unusual case of infestation of the water supply was described in a West Country County Borough, the causal organism being a crustacean known as *Asellus Aquaticus*. The water engineer concerned eradicated the infestation with pyrethrin which had been successfully used under similar circumstances by the authorities in Amsterdam.

During the two previous Summers, a few cases of infestation by the same organism have been reported in Cheltenham, and there has been consultation with the Borough Engineer. It is thought that the origin of the trouble is the reservoirs at the Hewletts. Since then, however, Nos. 3 and 4 reservoirs at Hewletts have been relined and the Borough Engineer has made other improvements which should result in more effective screening of the water. The results will be closely watched during the coming Summer and if not satisfactory, the question of pyrethrin treatment may be considered.

The crustacean, *Asellus Aquaticus* is a harmless organism but its appearance in the water supply naturally causes alarm.

*Bacteriological Examinations.**No. of Samples examined*

							1955	1956
Tewkesbury								
Raw River Water ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	83	116
Coagulated water at outlet, from tanks	...	...	...	...	...	...	34	39
Coagulated water above filters	...	...	...	...	...	...	34	39
Filtered water	...	...	...	...	...	...	209	286
Chloraminated water	...	...	...	...	...	...	466	563
							<hr/>	<hr/>
							826	1043

Cheltenham

Dowdeswell Clean ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	11	13
Northfield	...	...	...	...	...	...	14	18
Sandford	...	...	...	...	...	...	10	16
Swimming Pools	...	...	...	...	...	...	35	36
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	...	...	21	68
Spa Waters	...	...	...	...	...	...	25	27
							<hr/>	<hr/>
							116	178

*Chemical Examinations**No. of Samples examined***Tewkesbury**

							1955	1956
Raw river water ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	750	642
Coagulated and Filtered waters	...	...	...	...	...	...	1552	4268
Final waters	...	...	...	...	...	...	555	1531
							<hr/>	<hr/>
							2857	6441

Cheltenham

Dowdeswell	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	5
Northfield	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	5
Sandford	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	7
Swimming Pools	...	...	...	...	...	...	11	—
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	3
							<hr/>	<hr/>
							23	20

The decrease in the bacterial pollution of the River Severn, noted in last year's Report, has continued at the same level, being 56% as compared with 56.7% in 1955.

Of the final water going into supply, 98.6% of the final samples showed the absence of presumptive *Bacillus Coli* in 100 ml. quantities. Of the 8 presumptive positive samples during the year, not one was confirmed in the reference sample. The bacteriological condition of Cheltenham samples, from local sources, was approved in all cases.

SWIMMING BATHS

Regular samples of water from the Swimming Baths are submitted for bacteriological examination. These showed that a satisfactory standard has been maintained throughout the year.

MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATION) REGULATIONS

During 1956, licences to use special designations in relation to milk sold within the Borough, totalled sixty-six, as follows :—

Designation	Type of Licence			Total
	Pasteurisers	Dealers	Supplementary	
Tuberculin Tested	—	31	1	32
Pasteurised	3	30	1	34
Sterilised	—	—	—	—
TOTALS	3	61	2	66

Samples are taken fortnightly for analysis and the reports are submitted to the Health Committee.

Very few results during 1956 failed to satisfy the standards of the Ministry of Health.

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

The following statement shows the corrected numbers of cases notified during 1956. (Tuberculosis is dealt with separately). An analysis of the notifications according to age and sex is set out on page 19.

Dysentery	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	12
Erysipelas	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Food Poisoning	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Measles	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	545
Meningococcal Infection	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Pneumonia (all forms)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	46
Poliomyelitis—Paralytic	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
NON Paralytic	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Puerperal Pyrexia	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	44
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	50
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	148
Paratyphoid Fevers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Malaria	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1

NOTES ON INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Poliomyelitis

Following release by the Ministry of Health of a British poliomyelitis vaccine, vaccination against the disease was started in the town during the early part of the Summer. Previously invitations to parents had resulted in 3,227 applications for child vaccinations in the permitted age group viz., 2 yrs. to 7 yrs. Owing to shortage of supplies, the Ministry of Health fixed in advance the age groups for vaccination in each area and the issue subsequently received only ran to 300 completed vaccinations in Cheltenham up till 30th June, when vaccination was suspended until the Autumn. Unfortunately no further supplies were received during the rest of the year and although further applications are being accepted, priority is being given to the original 3,227 applications and no other children will receive the vaccine until these have been completed. It is hoped that by the time this report is published, the priority group will have been vaccinated.

The first 300 vaccinations were completed uneventfully and without any complications. It is too early to assess results but judging by the reported success of the vaccine in America, there is reason to believe that a substantial degree of protection will be afforded.

As already stated, there was one notified case of the non-paralytic type of the disease during 1956. This occurred some months before poliomyelitis vaccination was started.

Measles

There was a reduction in the number of notified cases of measles as compared with 1955. No deaths from the disease were reported.

Whooping Cough

Notifications of whooping cough increased by about one third as compared with 1955 and there was one death from the disease.

The number of children in the Borough who have been vaccinated against Whooping Cough during the year is as follows:—

Local Authority	Under 1 yr.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	Total
	191	19	9	5	1	2	—	—	—	227
Private Practitioners	54	12	5	—	2	2	—	—	1	76
	245	31	14	5	3	4	—	—	1	303

Dysentery

There was no serious outbreak of this disease during the year. Six of the twelve cases notified occurred in a local hospital as a result of a mild infection.

The following table gives the number of infectious diseases notified, divided into groups of age and sex.

	Scarlet Fever	Whooping Cough	Acute Poliomyelitis		Measles	Diphtheria	
			PARALYTIC	NON- PARALYTIC			
Under 1 year	M. — F. —	M. 5 F. 4	M. — F. —	M. — F. —	M. 10 F. 6	M. — F. —	
1 to 2 years	M. 2 F. —	M. 18 F. 17	M. — F. —	M. — F. —	M. 57 F. 46	M. — F. —	
3 to 4 years	M. 6 F. 8	M. 14 F. 20	M. — F. —	M. — F. —	M. 84 F. 62	M. — F. —	
5 to 9 years	M. 14 F. 13	M. 25 F. 39	M. — F. —	M. 1 F. —	M. 132 F. 138	M. — F. —	
10 to 14 years	M. 1 F. 4	M. 2 F. —	M. — F. —	M. — F. —	M. 3 F. 3	M. — F. —	
15 to 24 years	M. — F. —	M. — F. —	M. — F. —	M. — F. —	M. 3 F. —	M. — F. —	
25 years and over	M. — F. 2	M. 1 F. 3	M. — F. —	M. — F. —	M. 1 F. —	M. — F. —	
Age unknown	M. — F. —	M. — F. —	M. — F. —	M. — F. —	M. — F. —	M. — F. —	
Total (all ages)	23 27	65 83	— —	1 —	290 255	— —	
	Acute Pneumonia	Dysentery	Smallpox	Acute Encephalitis		Enteric or Typhoid Fever	Paratyphoid Fever
				Infective	Post-infectious		
Under 5 years	M. 1 F. 4	M. 1 F. 1	M. — F. —	M. — F. —	M. — F. —	M. — F. —	M. — F. —
5 to 14 years	M. 1 F. 1	M. 1 F. 1	M. — F. —	M. — F. —	M. — F. —	M. — F. —	M. — F. —
15 to 44 years	M. 1 F. 2	M. 1 F. 1	M. — F. —	M. — F. —	M. — F. —	M. — F. —	M. — F. —
45 to 64 years	M. 5 F. 4	M. — F. —	M. — F. —	M. — F. —	M. — F. —	M. — F. —	M. — F. —
65 years and over	M. 13 F. 14	M. 6 F. —	M. — F. —	M. — F. —	M. — F. —	M. — F. —	M. — F. —
Age unknown	M. — F. —	M. — F. —	M. — F. —	M. — F. —	M. — F. —	M. — F. —	M. — F. —
Total (all ages)	21 25	9 3	— —	— —	— —	— —	— 1
	Erysipelas	Meningococcal infection	Puerperal Pyrexia	Ophthalmia neonatorum	Malaria	Food Poisoning	
Under 5 years	M. — F. —	M. 1 F. —	F. — —	M. 1 F. —	M. — F. —	M. — F. —	
5 to 14 years	M. — F. —	M. — F. 1	— —	M. — F. —	M. — F. —	M. — F. —	
15 to 44 years	M. — F. —	M. — F. —	— 44	M. — F. —	M. — F. 1	M. 1 F. —	
45 to 64 years	M. 2 F. —	M. 2 F. —	— —	M. — F. —	M. — F. —	M. — F. —	
65 years and over	M. — F. 3	M. — F. —	— —	M. — F. —	M. — F. —	M. — F. —	
Age unknown	M. — F. —	M. — F. —	— —	M. — F. —	M. — F. —	M. — F. —	
Total (all ages)	2 3	3 1	44	1 —	— 1	1 —	

Diphtheria

The following table shows the number of complete injections carried out, together with the immunity index :—

Age at 31.12.56 i.e. born in years indicated.	Under 1 1956	1-4 1955-1952	5-9 1951-1947	10-14 1946-1942	Under 15 Total
Last complete course of injections (whether primary or booster) A.1952-1956	113	2549	3859	2864	9385
B.1951 or earlier	—	—	1088	2142	3230
C. Estimated mid-year child population	1064	3920	10,660		15,644
Immunity Index 100A/C	10.62	65.02	63.06		60.0

Once again there has been a further improvement in the number of immunisations as compared with 1955. The immunity index for the total child population has increased from 56.8 to 60, and the total number of immunisations of all children under 15 years has increased by 800. Even more important is the greater proportionate increase in the number of the children under five years of age who have been immunised. During recent years there has been a noticeable falling off in the number of immunisations and it is encouraging that this tendency has been reversed.

The figures in the following table show the total number of immunisations known to have been completed during the last five years :—

	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956
By the School Doctors and at Welfare Clinics ...	407	393	162	304	452
By Private Practitioners ...	357	360	464	654	639
	764	753	626	958	1091

The 639 cases completed by private practitioners during 1956 included 495 combined Diphtheria and Whooping Cough immunisations.

Reinforcing Doses at ages 5 and 10 years

During 1956, 777 doses were given at or about 5 years of age, 96 by Private Practitioners and 681 by the School Doctors. For the age of 10, the corresponding figures were 707, 16 and 691.

NOTIFICATIONS OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES 10 YEAR PERIOD 1947-58 INCLUSIVE

Year	Malaria	Smallpox	Scarlet Fever	Diphtheria	Typhoid Fever	Puerperal Pyrexia	Pneumonia	Poliomylitis and Polioencephalitis	Erysipelas	Meningococcal Meningitis	Ophthalmia Neonatorum	Dysentery	Food Poisoning	Acute Encephalitis	Measles	Whooping Cough	Tuberculosis	
1947	—	—	108	4	—	18	44	3 Paralytic 3 Non-Paralytic	14	2	1	—	—	—	1046	192	69	20
1948	—	—	72	2	—	14	57	1	12	—	2	4	—	—	358	221	59	15
1949	—	—	46	2	—	3	40	2	4	—	10	—	8	—	94	86	57	7
1950	1	—	53	1	—	4	35	6	6	2	—	47	—	Infective	1448	225	70	14
1951	—	—	58	—	1	8	59	1	4	—	—	22	5	2	218	196	58	17
1952	—	—	25	1	—	16	47	2	5	—	—	5	3	—	1108	149	38	9
1953	1	—	87	—	—	18	68	1	6	2	2	3	11	—	376	283	40	7
1954	—	—	61	—	—	26	32	17	5	2	1	5	14	—	530	145	53	4
1955	—	—	107	—	—	54	36	7	4	1	6	6	14	—	797	109	46	7
1956	1	—	50	—	—	44	46	—	5	4	1	12	1	—	545	148	34	8

Vaccination against Smallpox

As in the case of diphtheria immunisation, smallpox vaccination shows a further encouraging increase and our efforts to stress the importance of this very necessary preventive measure have met with some success, especially in our infant welfare clinics. Two years ago only 24% of children born in the town during the year had been vaccinated. Last year, this figure rose to 33% and for 1956, it is 37%. I hope this annual increase will continue until the child population is adequately protected.

During 1956, 442 children under one year were vaccinated, i.e., 37.23% of the children born during the year, an improvement on 1955, but not enough to ensure adequate protection.

ANNUAL RETURN OF FOOD POISONING NOTIFICATIONS

(Corrected)

1. Local Authority. Cheltenham. Year 1956.

2. Food Poisoning Notifications (Corrected) Returned to R.G.

<i>1st Quarter</i>	<i>2nd Quarter</i>	<i>3rd Quarter</i>	<i>4th Quarter</i>	<i>Total</i>
—	—	1	—	1

3. Outbreaks Due to Identified Agents.

Total outbreaks — Total cases —

Outbreaks due to :—

(a) Chemical Poisons	—	(d) Cl. botulism	...	—
(b) Salmonella Organisms	—	(e) Other bacteria	...	—
(c) Staphylococci (including toxin)	—			

4. Outbreaks of Undiscovered Cause.

Total outbreaks ... — Total cases —

5. Single Cases.

Agent identified	...	1
Unknown cause	...	—
Total ... ..	...	1

Only one case of food poisoning was notified during the year the organism responsible being *B. typhi-murium*. The source of the infection was not identified but an iced lolly eaten by the patient was suspect. The premises where these iced lollies were sold, were inspected and the method of preparation was not considered entirely satisfactory. Certain improvements in the methods used for cleaning equipment were effected.

TUBERCULOSIS **New Cases and Mortality during 1956**

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Under 1 year ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1-5 years ...	—	2	2	—	—	—	—	—
5-15 „ ...	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
15-25 „ ...	3	4	—	1	—	—	—	—
25-35 „ ...	7	5	1	2	—	—	—	—
35-45 „ ...	—	2	—	1	3	1	—	—
45-55 „ ...	3	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
55-65 „ ...	1	2	—	—	2	1	—	—
65 and upwards ...	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
TOTALS ...	16	18	3	5	5	2	—	—

Death Rates

The Tuberculosis death rates for Cheltenham during 1956 were as follows :—

Pulmonary Tuberculosis		0.103	} Per 1,000 of Population
Non Pulmonary Tuberculosis		0.00	
Total		0.103	
Comparative } Great Towns average Total		0.14	
Figures } England and Wales Total		0.121	

Only 34 cases of pulmonary tuberculosis and 8 of the non-pulmonary type were notified during the year. There were only 7 deaths from the disease. New cases last year totalled 53 with 8 deaths. These are the lowest figures for tuberculosis ever recorded in the Borough. The death rate from the disease is also at a record low level. I described our tuberculosis figures last year as remarkable and this year they are even better. The results of the preventive and curative services now available lead us to hope that we are beginning to control this disease. It would be rash to say that we are in process of wiping it out altogether. That will take a long time but it can be done. What we need above all else is a bigger response by the public to Mass Radiography whereby the disease can be diagnosed in an early and curable stage and, more important, while it is still non-infectious. The response in Cheltenham is not bad, over 10,000 adults and children were X-rayed during the year, but the more who come forward and the more cases discovered and treated, the sooner will the community be rid of this disease.

A further comment on the preventive tuberculosis services will be found in the Report on the School Health Service.

HOUSING

Close co-operation has been maintained with the Housing Committee especially with regard to housing on medical grounds and the rehousing of families living in unfit properties. Housing plays an essential part in the health and welfare of the community and co-operation between the two committees is of the utmost importance. The following cases were dealt with during the year :—

Number of cases rehoused because of Tuberculosis ... 8 (16)

Number of cases rehoused from houses on which a Demolition or Closing Order was operative ... 18 (32)

The 1955 figures are shown in brackets.

It is perhaps a reflection on the favourable tuberculosis picture in the town that only half the number of families were rehoused because of tuberculosis as compared with the previous year. On the other hand, the reduction in the number of families rehoused from unfit properties is a reflection on the number of houses becoming available for allocation in these cases. As will be seen in the Report of the Chief Public Health Inspector, the total number of premises on which Closing Orders, Demolition Orders and Undertakings existed, the tenants of which had not been rehoused up to the 31st December, 1956, was 96 involving 100 families.

Some general remarks on housing conditions in the town appear in the introduction to this Report.

REGISTRATION AND INSPECTION OF NURSING HOMES.

SECTIONS 187-194. PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936.

At the commencement of 1956 there were 12 Nursing Homes on the Register. One Nursing Home closed during the year.

The total number of beds available at the end of the year was 98 classified as follows :—

	Number of Homes	Number of Beds provided for		
		Maternity	Other	Totals
Homes First Registered during the year.	—	—	—	—
Homes on the Register at the end of the year.	11	9	89	98

Private Nursing Homes in Cheltenham still provide a most valuable addition to the accommodation available for sick persons.

Many of the homes provide mainly for old persons and help in no small way to solve a problem which yearly becomes more difficult.

Visits were paid to all Nursing Homes on two or more occasions during the year.

REMOVAL TO SUITABLE PREMISES OF PERSONS IN NEED OF CARE AND ATTENTION

(National Assistance Act, 1948 Sec. 47 and Amendment Act October, 1951)

No old persons were removed to Part III accommodation under Section 47 of the above Act.

MEDICAL EXAMINATIONS

The following examinations for the purpose of employment were carried out during the year :—

<i>Purpose of Examinations</i>	<i>Numbers Borough</i>	<i>Examined County</i>
Superannuation Act, 1937 and 1953 and National Health Service (Superannuation)	87	44
Candidates for admission to Teachers Training College	—	61
Candidates for Employment as Teachers	—	5
Reports on Corporation Employees Prolonged Sick Leave, etc.	4	—
	<hr/> 91	<hr/> 110
Total examinations	201	<hr/>

Total examinations carried out during 1955 amounted to 199.

SCHOOL HEALTH SERVICE

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SCHOOL MEDICAL OFFICER

To the Chairman and Members of the School Medical Sub-Committee.

Madam Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report of the School Health Service for the year 1956.

A very satisfactory standard of health continues to be maintained among the school children in the town. There were no serious outbreaks of disease during the year. The statistical assessment of nutritional standards, previously classified as A. (good), B. (fair) and C. (poor), has now been changed to satisfactory and unsatisfactory. This gives a more general picture and in any case the percentage of children classified as of a poor nutritional standard has always been negligible. The percentage of children classified satisfactory at periodic medical inspections during the year was 99.1 %; only 0.9 % were considered to be unsatisfactory.

Only one school child was notified as suffering from poliomyelitis. The disease was of the non-paralytic type and recovery was uneventful. Notifications of all other infectious diseases were within normal limits and caused no serious illness.

The latest methods now being used for the prevention and detection of tuberculosis have continued in operation in the schools throughout the year. These include tuberculin testing of school entrants, B.C.G. vaccination and Mass X-Ray of school leavers. The response to B.C.G. vaccination is smaller than one would expect. I feel sure that if more parents appreciated the proved value of this measure, there would be more demand for its use.

The infestation rate among school children remains the same as the previous year. It is not unduly high but is maintained at its present level by a comparatively small number of parents who do not co-operate with us in carrying out the necessary treatment.

The school dental service is functioning smoothly and efficiently and is coping adequately with the demands made upon it. We are fortunately well served by two full time dental officers.

More detailed information concerning the School Health Service will be found in the various sections of the Report. To conclude this short introduction, I would like to express my appreciation of the help and encouragement I have received from the Chairman and Members of the School Medical Sub-Committee. I would also acknowledge gratefully the ready co-operation of Mr. Simmonds, the Borough Education Officer and his staff and not least, the indispensable help we so willingly receive from head teachers on whose time we have to make so many encroachments. My thanks are also due to my own medical, clerical and nursing staff for their accustomed loyalty and support throughout the year.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

T. O. P. D. LAWSON,

School Medical Officer.

School Medical Inspections

The routine medical inspections of school children have continued during 1956 and 5,096 children were examined throughout the year. 2,041 of these were of the 8, 12 and 17 year age group and are included under the heading of "additional periodic inspections."

Children are examined :—

- (a) on entry for the first time to a maintained school;
- (b) during the year in which they are 10 years old;
- (c) after entry to a secondary school when they are 12 years old and
- (d) in the last year of their attendance at a secondary school.

These examinations, apart from that at the age of 8 years, are full routine medical inspections. At 8 years of age the inspection is directed specifically to finding defects in vision, in the ears, the nose and the throat.

In addition, older pupils are examined before they leave school at the higher age groups in Pates Grammar School for Girls and the Boys' Grammar School.

As a result of these inspections, 630 pupils were found to have defective vision (excluding squint) and where necessary were referred to the Eye Specialist. A further 546 children were found to be suffering from other defects or diseases requiring treatment, and the necessary action was taken in all cases. The number of defects requiring to be kept under observation, but not requiring treatment was 1,588 and the children concerned were kept under special observation during the year. This latter group of course, includes very many minor defects which may be remedied spontaneously and never require treatment. They are kept under observation merely as a precautionary measure. This is of course the main purpose of the routine medical inspection, to prevent the minor defect becoming a major one.

The school population was 11,112 at the end of 1956 and every child has an up-to-date school medical record.

Special School Medical Inspections

These inspections cover children examined other than at a routine medical inspection for some special reason. During 1956, 1,358 children were examined at these inspections, and the appropriate action taken.

Re-Inspections

Re-inspections have been held each term in all schools in the Borough, when children who had previously been noted at routine or special medical inspections to be in need of further observation and advice, were seen by the School Medical Officers.

During 1956, 264 children were examined at these inspections.

TABLE I

**MEDICAL INSPECTION OF PUPILS ATTENDING MAINTAINED
PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS**

(Including Special Schools)

A. Periodic Medical Inspections.

Age Groups inspected and number of children examined in each :—

Entrants—(4-6 yrs.)	...	...	...	...	...	979
10 years	...	...	...	...	...	953
Leavers (14 years)	...	...	...	...	...	1123

				Total	...	3055
Additional Periodic Inspections (8, 12 and 17 yrs.)	2041

Grand Total	5096
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B. Other Inspections.

Number of Special Inspections	1358
Number of Re-Inspections	264

Total	1622
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C. Number of Individual Pupils found at Periodic Medical Inspections to require Treatment (excluding Dental Diseases and Infestation with Vermin.)

Age Groups Inspected	For defective vision (excluding squint)	For any of the other conditions recorded in Table III	Total Individual pupils
Entrants	61	125	176
10 years	129	109	226
Leavers	179	96	263
Total	369	330	665
Other Periodic Inspections	261	216	440
Grand Total ...	630	546	1105

D. Classification of the Physical Condition of Pupils inspected during the year in the age groups recorded in Table IA.

Age Groups	Pupils Inspected	Satisfactory		Unsatisfactory	
		No.	%	No.	%
Entrants	979	956	97.7	23	2.3
10 years	953	943	99.0	10	1.0
Leavers	1123	1120	99.7	3	0.3
Additional Periodic Inspections ...	2041	2029	99.4	12	0.6
Total	5096	5048	99.1	48	0.9

TABLE II

Infestation with Vermin

(1)	Total number of examinations in the schools by the school nurses or other authorised persons	25,756
(2)	Total number of individual pupils found to be infested	290
(3)	Number of individual pupils in respect of whom cleansing notices were issued (Section 54 (2) Education Act, 1944) ...	1
(4)	Number of individual pupils in respect of whom cleansing orders were issued (Section 54 (3) Education Act, 1944) ...	—

TABLE III

A. Return of Defects found by Medical Inspection during the year.

Defect or Disease	Periodic Inspections				TOTAL (including all other age groups inspected)	
	Entrants		Leavers		Requiring Treat- ment	Requiring Observa- tion
	Requiring Treat- ment	Requiring Observa- tion	Requiring Treat- ment	Requiring Observa- tion		
Skin	14	20	18	18	58	84
Eyes						
(a) Vision	61	22	179	8	630	72
(b) Squint	18	9	5	2	76	16
(c) Other	7	7	11	6	41	35
Ears						
(a) Hearing	6	27	3	16	20	103
(b) Otitis Media	4	15	2	4	16	45
(c) Other	1	1	3	4	13	12
Nose or Throat	24	149	3	13	49	305
Speech	4	13	1	3	16	28
Lymphatic Glands	—	53	—	4	—	113
Heart	2	27	—	18	4	91
Lungs	7	74	4	27	21	156
Developmental						
(a) Hernia	3	6	2	—	12	8
(b) Other	—	26	1	7	18	79
Orthopaedic						
(a) Posture	1	13	11	24	28	71
(b) Feet	17	6	20	8	95	36
(c) Other	15	31	5	21	51	112
Nervous System						
(a) Epilepsy	3	3	1	2	13	13
(b) Other	—	1	—	2	2	31
Psychological						
(a) Development	1	15	2	6	7	53
(b) Stability	1	11	—	7	12	45
Abdomen	—	9	2	4	6	28
Other	7	18	5	12	22	52

B. Special Inspections

Defect or Disease	Special Inspections	
	Requiring Treatment	Requiring Observation
Skin	44	16
Eyes		
(a) Vision	26	15
(b) Squint	8	3
(c) Other	33	11
Ears		
(a) Hearing	20	59
(b) Otitis Media	16	13
(c) Other	42	12
Nose or Throat	73	148
Speech	19	23
Lymphatic Glands	7	61
Heart	3	33
Lungs	19	77
Developmental		
(a) Hernia	3	4
(b) Other	12	13
Orthopaedic		
(a) Posture	18	16
(b) Feet	20	6
(c) Other	47	26
Nervous System		
(a) Epilepsy	5	6
(b) Other	2	5
Psychological		
(a) Development	9	28
(b) Stability	8	21
Abdomen	6	14
Other	166	49

TABLE IV

**Treatment of Pupils attending maintained Primary and Secondary Schools
(Including Special Schools)**

GROUP 1. Eye Diseases, Defective Vision and Squint.

	<i>Number of Cases dealt with</i>	
	<i>By the Authority</i>	<i>Otherwise</i>
External and other, excluding errors of refraction and squint	71	5
Errors of Refraction (including squint)	—	581
Total	71	586
No. of Pupils for whom spectacles were prescribed ...		478

GROUP 2. Diseases and Defects of Ear, Nose and Throat

						<i>Number of Cases treated</i>	
						<i>By the</i>	<i>Otherwise</i>
						<i>Authority</i>	
Received operative treatment :—							
(a)	for disease of the ear	...	...	...	...	—	20
(b)	for adenoids and chronic tonsillitis	...	...	...	...	—	373
(c)	for other nose and throat conditions	...	...	...	...	—	197
Received other forms of treatment						97	71
						—	—
						97	661
						—	—
Total number of pupils in schools who are known to have been provided with hearing aids.							
(a)	in 1956	...	...	...	...	—	2
(b)	in previous years	...	...	...	...	—	2

GROUP 3. Orthopædic and Postural Defects

						<i>By the</i>	<i>Otherwise</i>
						<i>Authority</i>	
Number of pupils known to have been treated at							
Clinics or outpatients' departments						117	283

GROUP 4. Diseases of the Skin (excluding uncleanliness, for which see Table II).

						<i>Number of Cases treated, or under treatment during the year by the Authority</i>	
Ringworm	(i)	Scalp	...	...	...	—
	(ii)	Body	...	...	...	5	
Scabies	...	...	...	...	...	6	
Impetigo	...	...	...	...	...	44	
Other skin diseases	...	...	...	...	...	62	
						—	
Total						117	
						—	

GROUP 5. Child Guidance Treatment

Number of Cases treated in the Authority's							
Child Guidance Clinics						...	76

GROUP 6. Speech Therapy

Number of Cases treated by the Authority						...	89
--	--	--	--	--	--	-----	----

GROUP 7. Other Treatment Given.

		<i>Number of Cases treated By the Authority</i>
(a)	Miscellaneous Minor Ailments ...	4082
(b)	Pupils who received convalescent treatment under School Health Service arrangements ...	7
(c)	Pupils who received B.C.G. Vac- cination	312
(d)	Other than (a) (b) and (c) above (specify)	
1.	U.V.L. Treatment	34
2.	Anaemia	5
3.	Threadworms	4
4.	Chest	5
5.	Debility	27
Total ...		4476

As will be seen from the above tables many conditions affecting the Health of the school child are dealt with as a result of school medical inspections. Treatment in most cases is arranged through the child's own family doctor except in the case of defects of vision. This category is referred direct by the school medical officer to the appropriate specialist. The general nutritional standard of the school children is very good. Of the 5096 children examined, only 0.9% were found to be below the normal standard to be expected among school children of that age.

Special attention is given to these children with a view to improving their general health and so enabling them to obtain in as full a measure as possible the benefits of the education provided.

Parental co-operation with the School Health Service continues to be very satisfactory.

Minor Ailments Clinics

These clinics which are well attended, are held on three afternoons per week in the Central Clinic. A medical officer is in attendance at each session so that as well as treating minor ailments, these clinics give an opportunity for the mother to bring a child along if she desires to consult the doctor on any matter concerning her child's health.

Additional sessions conducted by one of the school nurses, are held once per week at Whaddon, Elmfield, Lynworth and St. Paul's Schools. During the school holidays, clinics are held each morning during the week at the Central Clinic.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES**Poliomyelitis**

As already reported there was only one school child notified with this disease during the year. It was the only case in the town. There was no paralysis and the child recovered without any after effects.

Diphtheria

There was no case of diphtheria among school children during the year. The increase in the immunisation rate, reported last year, has been still further improved. The school children of the Borough are well protected against this disease.

Other Infectious Diseases

Total notifications of infectious diseases received in respect of school children are given below :—

<i>Measles</i>	<i>Diphtheria</i>	<i>Scarlet Fever</i>	<i>Whooping Cough</i>	<i>Polio</i>
276	Nil	32	66	1

Tuberculosis

The following notifications of tuberculosis in children of age groups 5-15 yrs. have been received during the year :—

	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
Pulmonary	1	2	3
Non-Pulmonary	—	—	—

The following schemes for the prevention and detection of cases of tuberculosis continued in operation throughout the year :—

- (1) Tuberculin testing of all school entrants followed by chest X-ray of positive children and investigation of family contacts.
- (2) B.C.G. Vaccination of school children between 13 and 14 years of age.
- (3) Chest X-ray of all school leavers.

Of the three school children notified as suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis, one, a school entrant, would probably have been discovered earlier in the routine tuberculin testing programme but for the fact that she was absent at the first school medical examination. The result of a positive test in another child led to the X-ray of the mother who was admitted to a sanatorium with pulmonary tuberculosis. A chest X-ray of the child showed no sign of the disease.

I am confident that the measures outlined above, in which we have the fullest co-operation from Dr. F. J. D. Knights, Chest Physician to the North Gloucestershire Chest Clinics and Dr. J. B. W. Hayward, Director of the Mass Radiography Unit S.W. Regional Hospital Board, will continue to bring to light unsuspected cases of tuberculosis. I would like to see parents making fuller use of B.C.G. Vaccination for the protection of their children against this disease. The value of vaccination has been proved and I have no hesitation in recommending it.

The following table shows details of the Tuberculin Testing and Vaccination Scheme during 1956 :—

No. of Schools	Invited	Accepted	Tuberculin Tested	No. Positive	No. Negative	% Positive	NOT Vaccin- ated	Vaccin- ated
9	972	425	396	67	312	17.7	—	312

This shows an acceptance rate of 43% and compared with 46% in 1955, these figures could be doubled with advantage.

Physiotherapy

A physiotherapy clinic is held in premises adjacent to the Central Clinic. Children are referred by the School Medical Officer from the routine school medical inspections or from the minor ailments clinics. Treatment consists of graduated exercises and ultra violet light. Progress is watched and the children are re-inspected at school.

A valuable addition to physiotherapy and rehabilitation services is now provided at Alstone Baths where children and adults suffering from the effects of paralytic poliomyelitis, cerebral palsy (spastics), and other disabilities, attend swimming sessions every Sunday morning. This service is provided by the joint effort of the Cheltenham Branch of the Infantile Paralysis Fellowship and the Cheltenham Swimming and Water Polo Club. It has been made possible by the Borough Council granting the free use of the swimming pool and by the voluntary help of the swimming club instructors and members. It is very much appreciated and great credit is due to all those who have made it possible.

Recuperative Holidays

We are indebted to the Cheltenham Rotary Club for generously providing a free fortnight's holiday for Cheltenham schoolboys at Weston-Super-Mare.

The boys selected by the school medical officers, are convalescent or debilitated children, whose parents would not be able otherwise to provide them with a recuperative holiday by the sea. The boys stay at the Rotary Boys House where a happy and healthy holiday, with good food and regular hours, does much to restore them to their normal vigour. Travelling expenses are also provided by the Rotary Club.

The Cheltenham Rotary Club has been providing these holidays for schoolboys in the town since 1928 and up to four boys per month can be sent to Weston. On behalf of the School Medical Committee, I would like to express our sincere thanks for this very fine example of "Service Above Self" and couple with it the gratitude of many parents in the town.

School Dental Service

Mr. A. W. McCarthy, L.D.S., and Mr. A. J. Lane, L.D.S., School Dental Officers, have supplied the following statistics covering the work of the School Dental Service during the year.

DENTAL INSPECTION AND TREATMENT CARRIED OUT BY THE AUTHORITY.

- (1) Number of pupils inspected by the Authority's Dental Officers :—

(a) At Periodic Inspections	...	...	...	...	9494
(b) As Specials	...	...	...	...	615
			Total	...	10,109

(2) Number found to require treatment	...	...	...	6570
(3) Number offered treatment	...	...	...	4981
(4) Number actually treated	...	...	...	2318
(5) Attendances made by pupils for treatment	...	...	...	5096
(6) Half days devoted to : Periodic (School) Inspection	...	...	...	75
General Anaesthetics	...	...	...	72
Treatment	...	...	...	780
		Total	...	927

(7) Fillings : Permanent Teeth	...	...	...	2550
Temporary Teeth	...	...	...	42
		Total	...	2592

(8)	Number of teeth filled :		Permanent Teeth	...	...	2164
			Temporary Teeth	...	...	42
			Total	...	...	<u>2206</u>
(9)	Extractions :		Permanent Teeth	...	...	963
			Temporary Teeth	...	...	2839
			Total	...	...	<u>3802</u>
(10)	Administrations of general anaesthetics for extraction					<u>2017</u>
(11)	Orthodontics					
	(a)	Cases commenced during year	...	...	...	74
	(b)	Cases carried forward from previous year			...	8
	(c)	Cases completed during the year	...	...	...	13
	(d)	Cases discontinued during the year	...	...	...	12
	(e)	Pupils treated with appliances	...	...	...	45
	(f)	Removable appliances supplied	...	...	...	50
	(g)	Fixed appliances fitted	...	...	...	—
	(h)	Total attendances	...	...	...	<u>436</u>
(12)	Number of pupils supplied with artificial dentures					<u>25</u>
(13)	Other operations :		Permanent Teeth	...	...	1345
			Temporary Teeth	...	...	14
			Total	...	...	<u>1359</u>

These figures show an appreciable increase in all branches of dentistry as compared with the previous year. The acceptance rate, that is the number of children for whom their parents accept treatment is not high, viz. 46% but this is an average figure and is in fact exactly the same as last year. The parents of many of the children who are found to require treatment, take them to their own private dentist and subsequent inspections show that a large number of these children are so treated. The school dental inspections therefore largely fulfil their purpose which is to ensure as far as possible that the schoolchild has dental treatment when required irrespective of the place of treatment. Nevertheless, the number of children who have regular treatment either from the school dentist or their own private dentist, varies considerably between schools. The school dentists often find that the same families refuse treatment repeatedly and do not visit their own dentists. It is usually in these families that treatment is most needed.

Both Mr. McCarthy and Mr. Lane are of the opinion that the general dental condition of the school children is improving especially in the older age groups.

Child Guidance Clinic

Children requiring child guidance treatment are seen by Dr. H. S. Coulsting, Medical Director at the Cheltenham, Gloucester and County Child Guidance Clinic in the town. Additional staff has been appointed during the year and this has helped considerably to reduce the waiting list.

Speech Therapy

The Speech Therapy Service is functioning efficiently under Mrs. M. D. Heaven, Speech Therapist. Five clinics are held in the town and much useful work is being done in remedying the various speech defects referred to her. The following is a record of the work carried out during the year.

Number of Clinics held	...	...	...	...	240
Number of Sessions for School Visiting, Clerical, etc.	...				99
Number of Consultations	...	...	...	...	109
Number of Treatments given	...	...	...	...	1,243
Number of Children admitted	...	...	...	...	95
Number of Children discharged	...	...	...	...	19
Number of Children on Register, 31st December, 1956	...				82

The Number of Children Discharged were Classified as follows :—

	Stammer		Stammer and Dyslalia		Dyslalia		Cleft Palate		Other Disorders		Total
	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	
Provisionally Cured	1	—	—	—	5	7	—	—	—	—	13
Much Improved	2	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3
Slightly Improved Unco-operative	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
No Improvement	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Left District and School	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	2
TOTAL	4	—	2	—	5	7	—	1	—	—	19

Employment of Children and Young Persons

During the year, 133 school children were examined as to fitness for employment before or after school hours and the necessary certificate was granted in each case. The standard of fitness among Cheltenham school children is such that it is exceptional if a certificate of fitness has to be refused to an applicant.

These children are kept under medical observation and there has never been any evidence that the part-time employment has been in any way detrimental to their physical or mental welfare.

All children leaving school are examined and advised in the light of their known medical histories as to any type of work for which they may have been found to be physically unsuitable and good liaison has been maintained with the Youth Employment Officer in this respect.

Handicapped Children

In accordance with the requirements of the Handicapped Pupils and School Health Service Regulations, 1945, 68 pupils have been examined or re-examined during 1956 for the purpose of ascertaining whether or not they are suffering from a disability of the mind or body and if the disability is such as to fall within a category requiring special educational treatment as prescribed by the Regulations. Of the pupils examined during 1956 :—

23 have been ascertained to be educationally sub-normal.

1 has been ascertained to be physically handicapped.

5 have been reported to the Local Authority under the Mental Deficiency Acts.

14 were found to have no disability.

16 were found to be suitable for education in an ordinary school

8 were found to require supervision after leaving school.

1 has been ascertained to be maladjusted.

Conclusion

As will be seen from the foregoing report, there is nothing lacking in the School Health Service to ensure the normal physical and mental development of the child. With the same co-operation from the parents which we have now come to expect, there is no reason why the present very satisfactory results should not be maintained.

Environmental Hygiene

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR AND MANAGER OF THE PUBLIC ABATTOIR, 1956

*To His Worship The Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the Borough of
Cheltenham.*

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report on the Chief Public Health Inspector's Department for the year 1956.

An important step was made during the year in the sphere of food hygiene by the coming into force of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, and the Food Hygiene Regulations; over 1,200 inspections being carried out at premises where food is prepared or handled. All school canteens in the Borough were surveyed, the standard of hygiene being most satisfactory, but in view of the new Regulations, a number of improvements were required.

213 samples of various foods and drugs were taken for analysis and an interesting feature is that no adverse reports on the formal samples were reported by the Public Analyst. This denotes a great improvement in the standard, quality and accurate labelling of food products.

The Cheltenham Public Abattoir was erected in 1892 and, insofar as the slaughtering halls are concerned, there has been no fundamental alteration in these since their construction some 65 years ago. The quantity of animals killed at the Abattoir is more than double that of the average for pre-War years. The overhead rails have been condemned by the maintenance engineers, largely due to gross overloading during the War years. The covered lairage is completely inadequate for the throughput of animals with the result that they suffer from undue exposure in the winter, especially during weekends. These conditions have given rise to much concern and a scheme has, therefore, been drawn up to modernise the Abattoir, replacing obsolete and worn-out equipment and incorporating many humane measures, such as a bovine stunning box, adequate covered lairage and similar improvements. The advent of the Slaughter of Animals (Prevention of Cruelty) Regulations, 1954, made many of these alterations a statutory requirement. The Council approved of these measures but, owing to financial restrictions, it was necessary for a Deputation from the Council to visit the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food in order to obtain approval for loan sanction. The Ministry realised the necessity for most of the alterations and appreciated that the throughput of the Abattoir justified the extra lairage. Plans and specifications are now in the course of preparation and it is hoped that the majority of these works will be completed during 1957.

An extensive Foot-and-Mouth disease outbreak occurred during the summer, Cheltenham being declared an infected area. This necessitated a great deal of emergency slaughter, including Sunday work. The closest co-operation was maintained with the Officers of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food to enable them to deal effectively with the outbreak.

The Housing Survey completed last year showed that Closing and Demolition Orders would be required on some 253 houses and basements. A good start was made in this Slum Clearance programme and, in the early part of the year an average of ten to twelve dwellings per month were dealt with. In view of the number of premises upon which Orders

had been placed and from which the tenants had not been rehoused, the Public Health Committee decided to reduce the number of such Orders made to approximately six to seven every two months until the rehousing position had improved. The situation at the end of the year was that 96 premises, the subject of Demolition or Closing Orders, remained occupied, involving 100 families awaiting accommodation. The total number of families rehoused from such premises during the twelve months amounted to 18.

This survey has emphasised the difficulty of ascertaining the cause of slums such as exist in this Town. They are not a by-product of the Industrial Revolution and can, in general, be attributed to neglected maintenance. Considerable difficulty has been experienced in attempting to rehouse the people from these houses. They enjoy the intimate atmosphere of neighbourliness that exists in such areas with a high density rate.

The work associated with smoke abatement has received an impetus in the passing of the Clean Air Act, which came into force at the end of the year. This Act contains some very valuable measures and, when all sections are in force, it should do a great deal to prevent the emission of smoke, grit and noxious smells and its advent is awaited with keen interest.

The two deposit gauges were maintained during the year and the results of the monthly analyses of these are set out in the following pages. The Gas Works, with the old horizontal retorts and the accumulation of piles of carbon black, continues to be the chief source of pollution in the Borough. It is hoped that authority will be given to purchase and site another deposit gauge in the direction of the prevailing South West wind in order that a complete picture of the emanations from these Works can be obtained.

The steadily rising cost of coal and the fluctuations in quality, together with pressure from this Department, have influenced several factories to change over to oil burning. This has completely cured the smoke and grit nuisance that used to result from the early morning stoking. The cost of smokeless fuel, however, remains high and the quantity limited.

In August, Parliament decreed that the title of Sanitary Inspector should be changed and, whilst some may regret its passing, the new title of Public Health Inspector is certainly more representative of the wide sphere of our duties in the field of environmental hygiene.

The Meat Inspector at the Public Abattoir resigned in October on obtaining a post with the Newton Abbot Urban District Council. The appointment was advertised in two National Journals and not a single qualified applicant applied for the post. Following an increase in the salary, however, a qualified Inspector was obtained and commenced his duties in January, 1957.

I should like to record my thanks to the Chairman and members of the Public Health Committee and other Committees of the Council for their continued support and to express my appreciation to the other Chief Officers for their advice and assistance.

My thanks are also due to my Deputy, Mr. A. L. Jones, for his valued assistance and to the Inspectorate and other members of the staff who have contributed to this Report.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

J. F. URSELL, D.P.A., F.A.P.H.I.

SUMMARY OF VISITS

It will be noticed that there has been a great increase in the inspections carried out in connection with food hygiene, there being almost one thousand more visits during the current year than in 1955. A great many premises needed inspection for the first time, such as works canteens, school canteens, boarding houses and clubs. Shops Act Closing Hours entailed very many inspections on Sundays and during the evenings, accounting for some 581 visits. In view of the many exemptions that exist under the Shops Act, these sections are extremely difficult to enforce and require frequent visits and explanatory leaflets in order to prevent contraventions.

TABLE I

General Sanitation

Water Supply	117
Drainage	1,945
Stables and Piggeries	37
Offensive Trades	44
Fried Fish Shops	35
Common Lodging House	18
Houses Let in Lodgings	60
Tents, Vans and Sheds	109
Factories	550
Outworkers	52
Bakehouses	76
Public Conveniences	39
Theatres	1
Refuse Collection	301
Refuse Disposal	2
Rodent Control	165
Smoke Observation and Atmospheric Pollution Visits	68
Marine Stores	17
Schools	1
Miscellaneous Sanitary Visits	351
Interviews	474
Total	4,462

TABLE II

Housing

<i>Under Public Health Acts:</i>							
No. of Houses Inspected	...	...	...	...	...	...	591
Re-Visits	...	...	...	...	...	...	551
<i>Under Housing Acts:</i>							
No. of Houses Inspected	...	...	...	...	...	...	652
Re-Visits	...	...	...	...	...	...	490
<i>Certificates of Disrepair:</i>							
No. of Visits	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
<i>Overcrowding:</i>							
No. of Houses Inspected	...	...	...	...	...	...	12
Re-Visits	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
<i>Verminous Premises:</i>							
No. of Houses Inspected	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
Re-Visits	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
<i>Miscellaneous Housing Visits</i>	...	...	...	...	...	...	551
Total							2,864



This is a very old property on which a Closing Order has been made. The tumble-down shack leaning against the house forms the scullery in which are the water supply and sink.



This photograph shows two houses, one fronting on the street and the other being entered from the rear yard. A couple with a young child live in the rear house and this old lady, aged 84, occupies the premises at the front. The derelict building on the left houses both W.C.'s, the water supply and sink to the front house being in the washhouse with the broken window; Closing Orders exist on both these premises.

TABLE III

Food Inspection, etc.*Inspection of Meat:*

Visits to Public Abattoir	187
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Visits to Other Premises	14
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Food and Drugs Act:

School Canteens	36
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Butchers	218
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Fishmongers and Poulterers	43
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Grocers	226
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Greengrocers and Fruiterers	82
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Dairies and Milkshops	94
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Ice Cream Premises	99
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Food Preparing Premises	104
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Restaurants and Hotel Kitchens	233
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Licensed Premises	61
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Market Stalls	85
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Street Vendors' and Hawkers' Carts	18
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<i>Food Inspection and Condemnation Visits</i>	325
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Visits in Connection with Sampling:

Milk—Bacteriological	72
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Food and Drug Samples	222
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<i>Miscellaneous Food Visits</i>	119
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Total	2,238
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TABLE IV

Infectious Diseases and Disinfestation*Disinfestation:*

No. of Premises Treated	137
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No. of Articles Treated	314
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Infectious Diseases:

No. of Premises Visited	295
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No. of Articles Disinfected	329
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Removal of Articles for Destruction:

No. of Visits	320
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No. of Re-Visits	320
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<i>Special Visits</i>	1,378
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Total	3,093
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TABLE V

Rodent Control*Rats and Mice:*

No. of Visits for Inspection	854
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No. of Visits for Treatment	2,786
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Other Pests:

No. of Visits for Inspection	156
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No. of Visits for Treatment	484
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Total	4,280
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TABLE VI

Other Visits*Shop Act:*

Closing Hours	581
Employment of Young Persons	87
Welfare	...	...	...	...	...	...	136
<i>Merchandise Marks Act</i>	...	...	...	...	...	...	57
<i>Rag Flock and other Filling Materials Act</i>	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
<i>Pet Animals Act</i>	...	...	...	...	...	...	20
<i>Removal of Unsound Food:</i>							
No. of Visits	...	...	...	...	...	...	192

Total ... 1,078

Total of Tables I, II, III, IV, V and VI ... 18,015

NOTICES SERVED

During the year the following notices were served and/or complied:—

	<i>Informal Notices</i>		<i>Formal Notices</i>	
	<i>Served</i>	<i>Complied</i>	<i>Served</i>	<i>Complied</i>
Public Health Act, 1936	150	161	33	29
Housing Act, 1936	18	13	2	4
Factories Act, 1937	42	35	1	1
Shops Act, 1950	3	4	—	—
Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954	3	6	5	2
Food and Drugs Act, 1938	—	8	—	—
Food and Drugs Act, 1955	2	1	—	—
Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955	44	26	—	—
	<hr/> 262	<hr/> 254	<hr/> 41	<hr/> 36

The Notices complied with include those outstanding from the previous year.

Information in Regard to Land Charges

Requests for information under the Land Charges Act were received and dealt with during the year in respect of 1,235 Official Searches.

FACTORIES ACTS 1937-1948.

A comprehensive survey of all factories registered in the Borough was carried out during the year entailing some 550 inspections. Defects were found at a little over ten per cent of premises inspected and 157 re-visits were necessary.

Of the defects at twelve factories referred to this Department by H.M. Inspector of Factories, seven related to want of cleanliness of W.C. apartments, five to misuse or lack of intervening ventilated spaces, four to inadequacy of lighting of apartments and, in one case, insufficient sanitary accommodation for the number of persons employed.

Where action was taken requiring the provision of intervening ventilated spaces, this was mainly due to the fact that rooms adjacent to the sanitary accommodation had been turned into workrooms.

FACTORIES ACTS 1937 & 1948.

The following tables shew the work carried out during the year: —

1. Inspections for purposes of provisions as to Health.

Premises	Number on Register	Number of	
		Inspec- tions	Written Notices
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are enforced by the Local Authority	49	65	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	328	461	40
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	16	24	—
Totals ...	393	550	40

2. Cases in which defects were found.

Particulars	Found	Remedied
Want of Cleanliness (S.1)	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2)	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	1	1
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)		
(a) insufficient	2	2
(b) unsuitable or defective	38	26
(c) not separate for sexes	—	—
Other offences against the Act (Not including offences relating to Outwork)	1	1
Totals ...	42	30

3. Outwork—Sections 110 and 111.

Nature of Work	No. of outworkers in list required by Sec. 110 (i) (c)		Section 111 Notices Served
	February List	August List	
Wearing apparel (Making, etc.)	28	27	—
Curtains and Furniture			
Hangings	2	3	—

SMOKE ABATEMENT

The work in connection with smoke abatement has continued to increase throughout the year and it is gratifying to know that the public are beginning to realise the importance of a healthy atmosphere.

Two deposit gauges have been maintained, one situated in the centre of the town and the other to the South West of the Gas Works. The analyses, carried out monthly, are tabulated in the graph.

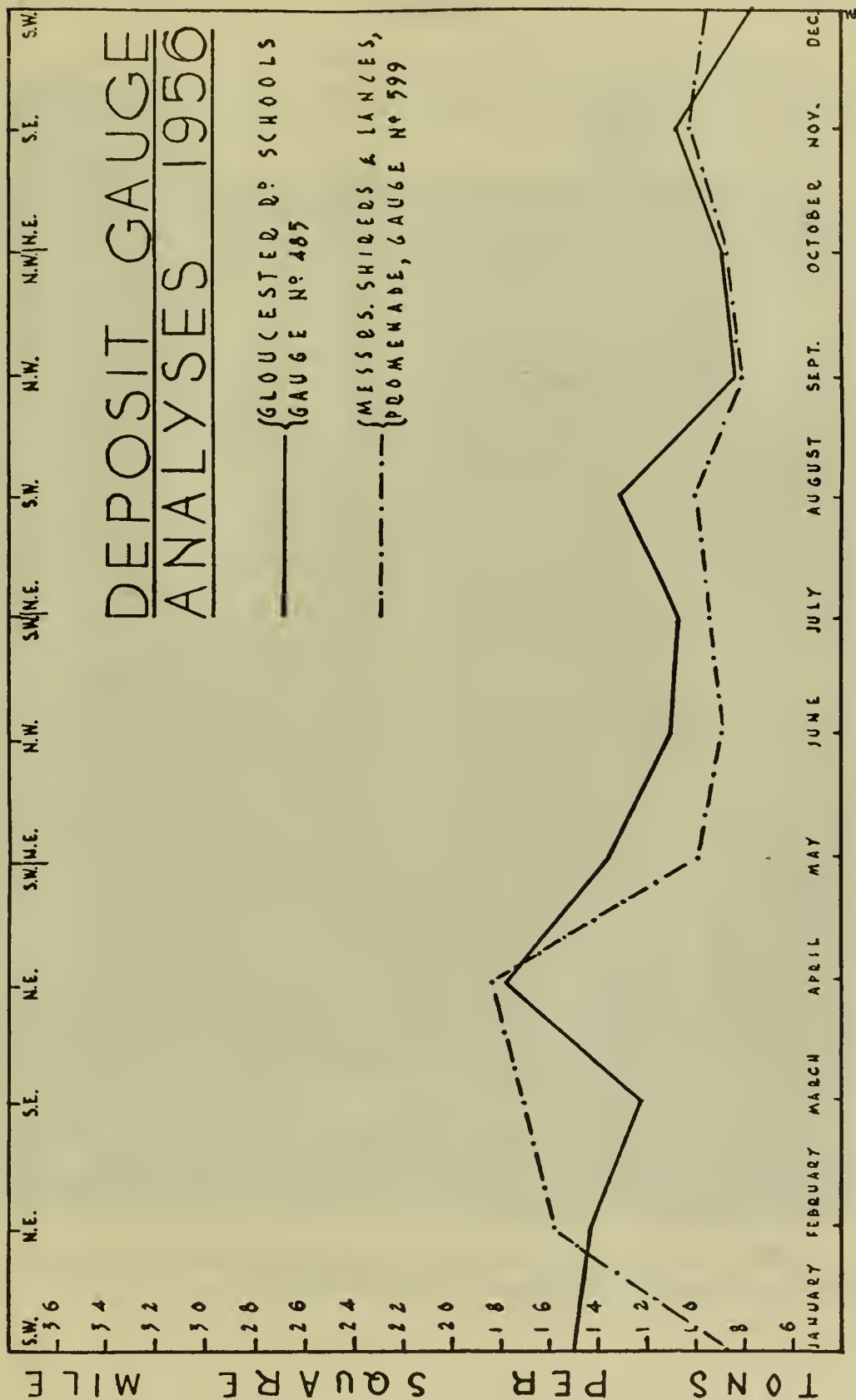
The average rate of deposit throughout the year recorded at the gauge near the Gas Works was 12·07 tons per square mile per month, rather less than in 1955. A more conclusive picture in relation to pollution from the Gas Works would be available if a deposit gauge could be set up to the North of the Works and it is hoped to obtain authority for another gauge to be sited in such a position. The prevailing wind in Cheltenham is South West, so that a higher degree of pollution can be anticipated over that section of the town. It will be noted that, whilst the Gloucester Road gauge only records the pollution from the Gas Works when the wind is in a certain direction, the results from this station are worse than those obtained from the gauge sited in the Promenade in eight months out of the twelve. With the exception of the Gas Works, air pollution of an industrial nature in the town is secondary to that arising from domestic sources.

It will be seen that the analysis of the deposit gauge in the centre of the town showed an increase from 10·46 tons per square mile per month last year to 11·37 tons this year. This increase is undoubtedly due to a large chimney situated near the centre of the town which has, during the past twelve months, caused considerable nuisance. The fuel supply to this factory leaves much to be desired and the proprietors are now making provision to transfer to oil firing, which will prevent a great deal of pollution in the town centre.

Another factory, where the equipment consisted of a vertical boiler with a mechanical stoker, was the cause of many complaints, especially during the early morning. The management had, however, taken the best practical means and were most co-operative. Later in the year they converted their furnace to oil burning. Since this was carried out no complaints have been received and this is another indication of the co-operation that we are receiving from the majority of industrial firms in the town.

68 visits were made, primarily to factories, during the year in connection with atmospheric pollution.

PREVAILING WINDS



HOUSING

The Housing Survey which was completed last year showed that, of the 1,170 houses and basements inspected, some 253 required to be dealt with by means of Closing or Demolition Orders, necessitating the rehousing of some 226 families.

Good progress was made at the beginning of the year in dealing with these unfit houses and basements not repairable at reasonable cost. A considerable adjustment to the programme originally approved by the Council was, however, necessary in order to assist those upon whom the responsibility for rehousing was placed.

The tenants of houses and basements upon which Closing and Demolition Orders have been made are in a particularly invidious position when they have to remain in such premises for long periods after the Order is made, inasmuch as no instructions for repairs can be enforced irrespective of the increased dilapidations and deteriorations in the general condition of the property.

During 1956 Closing Orders were placed on 21 houses and 9 basements and Demolition Orders were made on 13 houses, 8 being demolished. The position at the end of the year was that 100 families were awaiting accommodation, occupying some 96 premises and, during the year, 18 families had been rehoused from properties on which Closing and Demolition Orders existed.

The Borough Engineer, who is responsible for the Redevelopment Plan for the North Ward, has stated that the Council, having approved a plan for the development of the area between Tewkesbury Road and Swindon Road, and Cobham Road and Malvern Street, has made an active start on the first phase with 24 new dwellings in Cobham Road, which dwellings are scheduled for completion in June, 1957. Transference of tenants from condemned houses in and around Malvern Street to the new houses in Cobham Road will facilitate the second phase of redevelopment which provides for 54 dwellings on a site which the Council has acquired to the west of Malvern Street.

The Council has acquired many of the old properties in the streets between Cobham Road and Malvern Street, and when the second phase of development is completed in 1958, these old properties will be demolished to make way for a further instalment of the Council's overall plan.

Only one application was received for a Certificate of Disrepair under the Housing Repairs and Rents Acts, 1954. This was granted, being subsequently revoked when the owner carried out the works required to render the house fit for habitation.

2,864 visits were made in connection with the repair of houses under the provisions of the Housing and Public Health Acts.



This house is the subject of a Closing Order made on 12th March, 1956. It is typical of those upon which action is, at present, being taken.



This is a new Council House, the picture on the previous page being the view from the rear. Only forty-five feet separate these two dwellings—the old and the new.

HOUSING ACT, 1936.**LOCAL GOVERNMENT (MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS) ACT, 1953.**

The following action under the above Acts was taken during the year (figures for 1955 are given for comparative purposes) :—

	1955	1956
(a) Closing Orders (Basement Dwellings)	16	9
(b) Closing Orders (Parts of Houses, etc.)	1	1
(c) Closing Orders Determined	4	2
(d) Demolition Orders	16	13
(e) Clearance Orders—No. of Houses	18	—
(f) Houses Closed	5	21
(g) Demolition Order Revoked	—	1
(h) Undertakings to render premises fit accepted ...	3	13
(i) Undertakings to render premises fit complied with	5	3
(j) Undertakings not to use premises for human habitation	1	1
(k) Houses demolished	—	8

Action taken during the past eleven years is as follows :—

	No. of Houses	No. of persons displaced
Houses demolished as a result of formal procedure under Section 11	27	88
Houses closed in pursuance of an undertaking given by the owners under Section 11	31	130
Houses closed under Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1953 ...	35	114
Parts of buildings closed (Section 12) ...	268	786
Houses made fit as a result of formal notice under Sections 9-12	87	—

NEW HOUSES

The Borough Surveyor has supplied the undermentioned information.

New houses completed in the Borough since June, 1945 are as follows:

	By the Council	By Private Enterprise
Up to 31st December, 1950	1,426	
During 1951	263	
„ 1952	417	
„ 1953	924	
„ 1954	539	
„ 1955	428	
„ 1956	108	
	—	—
Up to 31st December, 1956	4,105	1,018
	—	—

COMMON LODGING HOUSES

There remains one common lodging house in the town, which is privately owned and offers cheap accommodation for 54 male lodgers. The majority of these have made the lodging house their permanent home and few vagrants seek accommodation, the premises usually being full. Also, from the keeper's point of view, undesirable lodgers such as alcoholics, create work and difficulties for a staff which are always hard to obtain and keep.

More than half the lodgers are in regular employment and, for economic reasons alone, this type of accommodation, with its few restrictions, suits their mode of living very well. A number of the others are pensioners and have lived there for very many years. One lodger has remained in residence for over 25 years and he prepares his vegetarian meals with meticulous care.

It is in times of serious illness that the problems arise. The more common complaints, such as bronchitis and influenza, which do not normally warrant hospital treatment, present real difficulties to the lodgers and to the keepers. There are no means of segregation and the spread of illness throughout the sleeping rooms is quite common.

During the past year our attention was drawn to one man who spent a great deal of time in bed. He was obviously very ill when visited and the Medical Officer arranged for his removal to hospital, where he died of Tuberculosis within a very short period.

Frequent inspections were made of the premises during the year and everything was found to be well conducted.

The keeper is keenly interested in the general welfare of his lodgers, providing a modern television set, a wireless and a small billiard table for their comfort. It is not generally realised the great contribution that the keeper of a house such as this makes in solving the problem of the homeless.

HOUSES-LET-IN-LODGINGS

Sections 11 and 12 of the Housing Repairs and Rents Act empower local authorities to prescribe standards in respect of houses-let-in-lodgings, such standards to prevent overcrowding and ensure that the premises are reasonably suitable for such occupation. These provisions have repealed the power of local authorities to make byelaws.

A number of such houses exist in the town, where single rooms and small flats are let off separately. Surveys of such properties have been undertaken, particular regard being paid to overcrowding and the deficiencies in sanitary accommodation, water supply, washing facilities and the preparation and cooking of food. In several cases notices have been served on the persons having control of the house stipulating the number of persons who should occupy each room and demanding the necessary additional facilities. It is unfortunate that no standards have been laid down for such facilities and the requirements have to be based on the particular circumstances existing. An alternative has to be made to the owner in some cases, so that instead of providing additional washing arrangements or sanitary accommodation, he can reduce the number of persons occupying the premises.

This weakness in the legislation has, in some cases, been taken advantage of, in that controlled tenants, often the original occupiers of a flat in a large house, have been ejected, whilst new tenants in furnished accommodation, paying far higher rents, have been allowed to remain.

This type of accommodation, whilst fulfilling a need for single persons or childless couples, is completely unsuitable for a family with young children. These families have to live, sleep and eat in one or two rooms, sharing very limited amenities with little privacy, the washing and drying of clothing often having to be carried out in the same room. These circumstances are most unsatisfactory for family life.

In one particular case, a family were being charged a rent of £2 10s. per week for one ground floor room. The occupants living and sleeping in the room were the husband, wife, four children and the lodger. The overcrowding was only abated by some of the family going into lodgings elsewhere.

MOVEABLE DWELLINGS

The caravan sites in the Borough continued to be fully occupied. 18 sites were licensed during the year, which provided accommodation for 85 caravans.

In general, the sites and caravans were well maintained. However, action was taken regarding defects that existed at several caravans. One special case concerned a caravan which was old and poorly insulated and in which most of the woodwork was rotten. A family of five lived in this caravan and were charged a rent of two guineas a week. A notice was served on the owner, requiring repairs, which resulted in the removal of the caravan from the site and its replacement with one of infinitely better construction.

The average caravan was designed primarily for holiday and temporary accommodation. Insufficient attention has, so far, been paid to insulation and fire resisting construction and, during the winter months it is difficult to obtain adequate ventilation.

DRAINAGE

Warden Hill Road

Notification had been given that the land at the rear of Warden Hill Road was intended to be developed for housing purposes.

Into this land ran the drainage from the septic tanks of 22 older houses fronting Warden Hill Road. This old system had already given trouble and would undoubtedly be productive of a nuisance to the occupiers of the new properties through whose gardens it passed. The estate developers were interviewed and advised of the inadequacies of the existing outfall system for which they had now undertaken responsibility as owners of the land. They agreed to carry out the necessary works to take the drainage from these houses into their new sewer at various points. The majority of the owners, who, in most cases were occupiers, were then advised of the position and recommended that opportunity should be taken to dispense with their old septic tanks.

At the end of the year this work was in hand and 22 houses will soon be directly connected to the sewer and a potential source of nuisance eradicated.

Alma Road

The existing houses in Alma Road were also drained to septic tanks. A new foul water sewer was laid in the road and the owners, following representations, agreed to dispense with these old tanks, with their inconvenience of periodical cleansing, and gave instructions for the drainage systems from their houses to be connected to this sewer.

In accordance with the Ministry of Health requirements, the following samples were taken:—

<i>Commodity</i>	<i>Formal</i>	<i>Informal</i>	<i>Commodity</i>	<i>Formal</i>	<i>Informal</i>
Almond Flavouring ...	—	1	Jam ...	3	2
Anchovies ...	1	—	Jelly ...	—	1
Apples ...	—	4	Lard ...	1	—
Aspirin ...	1	—	Lemon Juice ...	1	—
Baking Powder ...	1	—	Lemon Pudding Mix ...	—	1
Beans (Tinned) ...	—	1	Lemonade ...	1	—
Beef Sausages ...	1	—	Lemonade Blocks ...	—	1
Beer ...	3	—	Liquid Paraffin ...	1	—
Bicarbonate of Soda ...	1	—	Liver Salts ...	—	1
Biscuits ...	1	—	Liver Sausage ...	1	—
Bon Bons ...	—	1	Luncheon Meat ...	—	4
Bramble Jelly ...	1	—	Margarine ...	3	—
Bread ...	—	1	Marmalade ...	1	—
Bread Crumbs ...	—	1	Marzipan ...	1	—
Butter ...	3	—	Milk ...	37	—
Butter Beans ...	2	—	Milk (Tinned) ...	—	2
Buttered Nuts ...	—	1	Minced Beef ...	1	—
Buttered Toffees ...	—	1	Minced Chicken ...	—	1
Cakes ...	1	—	Mincemeat ...	1	—
Cascara Tablets ...	—	1	Mineral Water ...	1	2
Cherries (Tinned) ...	—	1	Mixed Fruit ...	2	—
Chewing Gum ...	1	1	Nut Oil ...	1	—
Chocolate Dates ...	—	1	Olive Oil ...	1	1
Christmas Pudding ...	1	—	Orange Juice ...	1	—
Cochineal ...	—	1	Oranges (Tinned) ...	—	1
Coconut Ice ...	1	—	Passion Fruit Juice ...	1	—
Codeine Tablets ...	—	1	Peanut Butter ...	—	1
Coffee Essence ...	1	1	Pepper ...	1	—
Cold Capsules ...	—	1	Pickle ...	1	—
Cooking Fat ...	—	1	Pickled Onions ...	1	—
Cream ...	—	1	Pilchards ...	1	—
Cream Chocolate ...	—	1	Pineapple (Tinned) ...	—	1
Cream of Tartar ...	1	—	Polony ...	1	—
Cream Sponge ...	1	—	Pork Sausages ...	—	1
Currant Bun ...	—	1	Quinine ...	—	1
Custard Mix ...	1	—	Raisins ...	2	—
Custard Powder ...	—	2	Ravioli ...	—	1
Custard Tarts ...	1	—	Rhubarb ...	1	—
Dates ...	1	—	Rice, Creamed ...	1	—
Desiccated Coconut ...	1	—	Rice Pudding ...	—	1
Dried Apricots ...	1	—	Rum ...	1	—
Eclairs ...	—	1	Sage & Onion Stuffing ...	—	2
Faggots ...	1	—	Salad Cream ...	1	—
Figs ...	1	1	Salt ...	—	1
Fish Cakes ...	2	—	Sauce ...	—	2
Flour, Plain ...	1	—	Soup ...	3	2
Flour, Self-Raising ...	1	—	Strawberries (Tinned) ...	—	1
Fruit Laxative ...	—	1	Strong Ale ...	1	—
Fruit Salad ...	—	1	Sugar, Brown ...	1	—
Fudge ...	—	1	Sultanas ...	2	1
Gelatine ...	1	—	Sweet Corn ...	1	1
Gin ...	2	—	Syrup of Hypophosphites ...	1	—
Ginger (Ground) ...	1	—	Tapioca ...	—	3
Ginger Lumps ...	—	1	Tea ...	3	2
Glucose Drink ...	1	—	Tomato Juice ...	2	—
Gooseberries (Tinned) ...	—	1	Tomato Puree ...	1	—
Ground Rice ...	1	—	Tonic ...	—	3
Ice Cream ...	8	—	Turkish Delight ...	—	1
Iced Lollies ...	—	1	Vinegar ...	2	—
Indigestion Lozenges ...	—	1	Whisky ...	3	—

Number of Samples taken during 1956 :

Formal ...	137
Informal ...	76

Total ... 213

FOREIGN BODIES IN FOOD

During 1956, 18 complaints were received with regard to foreign bodies found in food, as against 28 the year before. A wide variety of foods were implicated and full details are given in the following table, from which it will be noted that bread was most frequently the subject of complaint, due, no doubt, to the vast quantity of bread consumed, the ease with which foreign matter is seen and the particular attraction which flour and flour products have for rodents.

In four cases food contained rodent excrement. Contamination of this nature is probably the most repulsive to the consumer and it would be interesting to know whether such matter has been rendered sterile by the high temperature achieved in the baking process as is, on occasions, suggested. Most Magistrates accepted the contention that bread containing rodent excrement is "unfit for human consumption" but difficulty has been encountered in including under this heading inorganic matter of a non-poisonous nature found in food.

Master Bakers and others in the food trades remove an assortment of extraneous matter from the ingredients they use prior to final manufacture for retail sale. Greater care is, however, called for in the preparation and manufacture of food, especially those foods containing imported ingredients.

With regard to one particular sample, No. 108, a member of the public brought in half a loaf of bread complaining of insects that were in the loaf. Upon a detailed examination it was found, however, that the insects, which were weevils, were alive and, therefore, could not have been baked in the bread. The complainant's attention was drawn to this fact and she admitted that there were a number of such insects in the vicinity of her larder.

Another case of particular interest was brought to our notice when notification was received one Saturday morning of the arrival in Cheltenham of a large consignment of apples, a sample of which, taken earlier at the Port of London, revealed contamination by lead and arsenic.

From enquiries at the local wholesalers concerned, it was ascertained that 70 cartons of Italian apples had been purchased, of which 50 had been distributed to retailers over a wide area and to another wholesaler in a neighbouring city. All these dealers were contacted immediately by 'phone, or interviewed personally, and requested to withdraw the apples from sale. At the same time a sample was sent to the Borough Analyst, who subsequently reported that the apples were unfit for human consumption as they contained an excess of lead and arsenic, amounting to 2 parts per million of arsenical compound and 6.4 parts per million of lead compound. 44 cartons (approximately 1,540 lbs.) of these apples were recovered and surrendered for destruction. Despite prompt action, a considerable quantity of these apples had been sold and were presumably eaten.

Whilst acknowledging the vigilance of the Port Health Authorities in this instance, it seems desirable, nevertheless, to consider what steps, if any, can be taken at the Port of Entry so that Inland Authorities might be given even speedier notification in any future cases of this description. Furthermore, this episode plainly indicates the need for more care by producers and exporters in the country of origin.

<i>Complaints received during 1956</i>	<i>Remarks</i>
Mould in sausage rolls	Warning letter to vendor.
Chocolates infested with cobwebs ...	Warning letter to manufacturer.
Extraneous matter in custard powder	Proceedings instituted against manufacturers. Fined £20 plus £3 18s. 0d. costs.
Rodent excreta in bread	Proceedings instituted against manufacturers. Fined £20 plus £3 18s. 0d. costs.
Scale in cooking salt	Analyst stated this was not considered unfit for human consumption—no further action.
Mouse excreta in currant bun ...	Warning letter to baker.
Mould in sausage rolls	Warning letter to vendor.
Rodent excreta in tapioca	Warning letter to vendor.
Insect in Yoghurt	Warning letter to vendor.
Rodent excrement in bread ...	Warning letter to baker.
Fibrous matter in bread	Warning letter to baker.
Mould in sponge cake	Warning letter to vendor.
Nail in stick of rock	Warning letter to manufacturer.
Foreign matter in bread	Warning letter to baker.
Mould in bread	Warning letter to manufacturer.
Grease in bread	Warning letter to manufacturer.
Porridge Oats containing grubs ...	Warning letter to vendors.
Chrysalis in bread	Proceedings taken. Case dismissed.

**PARTICULARS OF FOODSTUFFS EXAMINED AND REJECTED AS
UNFIT FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION**

Tinned Foods				<i>Tins</i>	<i>Tons</i>	<i>cwts.</i>	<i>qrs.</i>	<i>lbs.</i>
Fruit	...	...	...	804	—	1	3	22
Meat	...	...	...	549	—	16	0	13
Vegetables		...	...	1143	—	11	3	25
Soup	...	...	...	87	—	—	2	23
Fish	...	...	...	146	—	—	3	13
Jam	...	...	...	8	—	—	—	15
Milk	...	...	...	131	—	1	0	8
Egg (Frozen)	...	...	...	62	—	8	1	0
Other tinned foods		...	...	23	—	—	—	15
Total				2953	2	10	0	24

General						<i>Tons.</i>	<i>cwts.</i>	<i>qrs.</i>	<i>lbs.</i>
Meat	...	...	...	...	—	8	2	6
Fish	...	...	...	...	—	4	0	12
Poultry	...	...	...	...	—	4	0	14
Cooked Meats	...	...	...	...	—	2	0	25
Flour and Cereals		...	...	...	—	—	3	11
Dried Fruit		...	...	...	—	—	1	17
Fruit		...	...	...	—	17	1	14
Cheese	...	...	...	...	—	1	0	1
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	—	1	1	15
Total					...	2	0	0	3
Grand Total					...	4	10	0	27

DISPOSAL OF CONDEMNED FOOD

All the above condemned foods are disposed of at the Corporation Tip. They are taken there early in the morning and immediately covered with several feet of domestic refuse. This not only prevents any nuisance, but also ensures that none of this unsound food can be illicitly used for human consumption.

CATERING ESTABLISHMENTS AND FOOD SHOPS THE FOOD HYGIENE REGULATIONS, 1955

Most of these Regulations came into operation on 1st January, 1956, but certain provisions, which involved alterations to the premises or equipment, or substantial changes in existing practices, were deferred until 1st July, 1956.

In the interim period prior to 1956, control of food premises was contained in the provisions of Section 13 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938. In order to bring these measures to the notice of all who handled food, an extensive Clean Food Campaign was launched, together with lectures to food handlers, school children and housewives, drawing their attention to the necessity for the careful handling and storage of food and the prevention of food poisoning.

The new Regulations embody the Target Code of Practice recommended by the Working Party and, whilst provisions in certain respects may be thought to require only a medium standard, it is appreciated that the Regulations are certainly a step in the right direction.

The reaction of the Catering and Food Trades to the enforcement of the Regulations has been satisfactory and no serious conflict of opinion in the interpretation and application of the provisions has, as yet, been encountered.

In respect of the sale of open food, it is pleasing to note that more use is being made of polythene and cellophane wrappers. This is of especial importance at the Market where dressed poultry are sold by auction. All buyers make a practice of "feeling" the end of the sternum or breast bone to ascertain the approximate age of the bird, as in young chicken the bone is still soft and cartilaginous. Requests have been made to suppliers to pack the dressed carcasses in polythene bags and in the main this is being carried out.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1955.**Number of Food Preparing Premises Registered under Section 16.**

Preparation of hams and meats	1
Preparation or manufacture of sausages and potted, pressed pickled or preserved food	19
Preparation or manufacture of sausages	5
Preparation or manufacture of preserved foods	12
Preparation of pickle for pork and beef	4
Total ...	41

Approximate Number of Food Premises in the Borough

Butchers' Shops	67
Fishmongers' Shops	18
Grocers	168
Greengrocers and Fruiterers	85
Licensed Premises	134
Hotels and Restaurants	112
College Boarding Houses, Guest Houses, Nursing Homes, Clubs, Hospitals, etc. (approx.)	169
School Canteens	25
Fried Fish Shops	19
Bakehouses	29
Total	826

MILK AND DAIRIES REGULATIONS, 1949-1954.

No. of Dairies Registered	15
No. of Milk Shops (Unregistered)	17
Total	32

ICE CREAM

Number of Ice-Cream Premises Registered at 31st December, 1956.

<i>Storage and Sale</i>	<i>Manufacture, Storage, and Sale</i>	<i>Manufacture only</i>	<i>Storage only</i>
181	8	1	2

• ICE CREAM CHEMICAL EXAMINATION

<i>Analyst's Sample No.</i>	<i>Fat %</i>	<i>Lactose %</i>	<i>Sugar %</i>	<i>N.F.S. %</i>	<i>Total Solids %</i>	<i>Preservatives</i>
10	11.70	5.97	20.11	25.79	37.49	Absent
13	11.31	6.63	14.11	25.17	36.48	Absent
14	12.68	6.72	14.24	25.02	37.70	Absent
27	12.25	6.10	12.60	24.34	36.59	Absent
63	12.39	5.67	14.79	25.43	37.82	Absent
64	11.20	5.87	13.87	23.98	35.18	Absent
65	14.83	5.53	13.62	33.51	47.39	Absent
103	13.00	Total Sugar	19.76%	25.65	38.65	Absent

ICE-CREAM BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION

<i>Ref. No.</i>	<i>Methylene Blue Test</i>	<i>Number of Bacteria per 1 c.c.</i>	<i>B. Coli</i>	<i>Remarks</i>
1508	Grade 1	110	Absent	Satisfactory
1509	Grade 3	21,600	Present	Unsatisfactory
1510	Grade 1	160	Absent	Satisfactory
1511	Grade 1	170	Absent	Satisfactory
1512	Grade 1	110	Absent	Satisfactory
1513	Satisfactory	620	Present	Unsatisfactory
1514	Satisfactory	140	Absent	Satisfactory
1515	Satisfactory	13,000	Present in 1/10 & 1/100 c.c.	Unsatisfactory
1516	Satisfactory	100	Present in one tube 1/10 c.c.	Satisfactory
1518	Grade 1	60	Present in one tube 1/10 c.c.	Satisfactory
1519	Grade 2	270	Present	Unsatisfactory
1520	Grade 1	170	Absent	Satisfactory
1521	Grade 1	30	Present in one tube 1/10 c.c.	Satisfactory
1522	Grade 2	120	Present in 1/10 & 1 tube 1/100 c.c.	Unsatisfactory
1523	Grade 1	50	Absent	Satisfactory
1527	Satisfactory	4,200	Absent	Satisfactory
1528	Satisfactory	80	Present in 1/10 c.c. & 1 tube 1/100 c.c.	Unsatisfactory
1529	Grade 1	1,600	Present	Unsatisfactory
1530	Satisfactory	190	Present in 3 tubes 1/10 c.c.	Unsatisfactory
1531	Satisfactory	80	Present in 1 tube 1/10 c.c.	Satisfactory
1532	Satisfactory	30	Present in 2 tubes 1/10 c.c.	Unsatisfactory
1535	Grade 1	70	Present in 3 tubes 1/10 c.c.	Unsatisfactory
1536	Grade 1	60	Present in 1 tube 1/10 c.c.	Satisfactory

ICE-CREAM BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION

23 Bacteriological samples were taken in connection with the manufacture and sale of ice-cream and, in general, a satisfactory standard was maintained. At one large restaurant, however, the analysis of samples showed that contamination of the ice-cream was occurring and many samples were taken in order to trace the source of infection. Investigations showed that the unsatisfactory samples were due to the neglect in following out the instructions given for the use of a quaternary ammonium compound which was provided for the sterilisation of the servers, samples of the water taken on one occasion showing a heavy contamination of coliform organisms.

A new system of sterilisation was put into practice and subsequent samples proved satisfactory.

MERCHANDISE MARKS ACT, 1926.

Observations are constantly being made to ensure that prescribed foods are marked in accordance with the provisions of the Merchandise Marks Act, 1926, and, except for isolated instances, the traders generally carry out the requirements satisfactorily.

It was noted, however, that a large consignment of about 100 x 12 lb. chips of "Guernsey" tomatoes were being delivered to the private house of a local barrow boy.

The following day, this trader was selling these tomatoes in different type chips, but lined with the same green lining paper as was used with the "Guernsey" chips. The colour of the lining paper is indicative of the quality of the tomatoes. On the barrow there was a large display ticket bearing the words "Best Hothouse Grown," 1/6d. per pound, and there was no indication that they were Guernsey.

The trader admitted that the tomatoes were produce of Guernsey and he stated that they had not been labelled as he could neither read nor write. At his request the Inspector added the word "Guernsey" on the display card. Later, the same day the tomatoes were properly labelled with a new card and the price had been reduced to 10d. per pound.

A warning letter was sent to this trader indicating that legal proceedings would be taken in the event of a further contravention.

OFFENSIVE TRADES

There are six established offensive trades within the Borough, two of which have been the subject of many complaints.

A fellmongers' premises is situated near the outskirts of the town where sheepskins are prepared to obtain pelts, the wool being taken off and dried, graded and packed. At these premises the difficulty has, in the past been the disposal of the trimmings. At one time these were tipped in the extensive grounds to the rear and covered with lime. This however, proved most unsatisfactory and arrangements have now been made for all such waste to be taken to the Corporation Tip where it can be immediately buried with household refuse.

The reconstruction of these premises has now been planned. They are partly constructed of timber and have been productive of considerable odour during the Summer months.

The other consists of a hide and skin yard where bovine hides are prepared for delivery to tanners and bones are collected for onward transmission to processing plants. This trade is situated in the centre of the town in an intensely populated area surrounded by small factories, shops and houses. The factory is over one hundred years old and productive of very many complaints from the adjacent premises. The loading of old bones, hide trimmings and the like is the cause of much nuisance, but often is only what can be expected from a business of this nature. The only answer is for this factory to be removed to the more spacious site on the outskirts of the town where the owners already have land available for such development. This would result, not only in the erection of buildings more suitable for the conduct of this trade, but would give adequate air space to prevent a nuisance.

Any steps that would assist in the removal of this hide and skin business from its present congested premises would undoubtedly confer an enormous benefit to that area.

SHOPS ACT, 1950.

Of the various Acts, Regulations and Orders administered by the Department, the Shops Act is the most controversial and difficult to implement. It is, therefore, of considerable satisfaction to Shops Inspectors and, probably to the traders also, that a Bill is at present being introduced to bring shops legislation up to date and in keeping with present-day trend of shopping, having in mind, of course, the welfare and working conditions of the shop assistants.

During the year 804 routine inspections have been carried out in connection with the enforcement of the provisions of the Shops Act, 1950.

PET ANIMALS ACT, 1951.

Routine inspections are made at all premises registered in accordance with the Act and conditions have been found satisfactory.

The Animal Shelter, closely associated with the R.S.P.C.A., receives throughout the year large numbers of lost dogs and cats. These animals are kept for short periods to enable owners to claim them. After such time every endeavour is made to find new homes for the unclaimed animals. Also, during the Summer months the kennels accommodate animals belonging to people on holiday. Demand for this service is such that accommodation is almost fully booked early in the year.

These kennels have been extended and modernised during the year.

HEALTH EDUCATION

13 Student Health Visitors attended this department as part of their training, prior to qualification.

They were given information on the various aspects of environmental hygiene and accompanied the District Inspectors on their daily duties to unfit houses, the Public Abattoir, the common lodging house etc., and were confronted with many problems which they are likely to meet in the future.

PUBLIC ABATTOIR

The number of animals killed at the Public Abattoir during the year totalled 26,021, compared with 24,892 in 1955.

The cost of running the Abattoir has risen considerably. Increased fuel and rate demands amount to several hundred pounds and, despite the most stringent economies, it is extremely doubtful whether it will be possible for the Abattoir to be self-supporting without some of these increases being absorbed in the form of higher charges.

The Council have been aware for some time of the necessity to carry out extensive repairs and modernisation to the Public Abattoir and, following the coming into force of the Slaughter of Animals (Prevention of Cruelty) Regulations, and the condemnation of certain equipment, a plan has been drawn up to carry out the essential modernisation of the Abattoir. This will provide for adequate covered lairage for all animals, the installation of a de-hairing machine, a stunning box and the replacement of the dangerous overhead rails.

The quantity of meat and organs rejected as unfit for food reflects the greatly improved quality of meat. Only 26 tons were condemned against 35 tons the previous year, although the throughput was much larger during the year under review.

It will be noted that the parasitic infestation known as *Cysticercus Bovis* which is transmissible to man, has increased slightly, 39 cases of infestation occurring in cattle, giving an overall rate of 1.15%. One cannot but associate this increased incidence with the form of sewage disposal practised in many places of discharging crude sewage on to fields where cattle are subsequently grazed. Any parasitical infestation that occurs, not being subject to treatment, can, and undoubtedly is, transmitted to the cattle. Every consideration should be given to the complete cessation, except in cases of emergency, of discharging crude sewage on to pasture land.

The percentage of cattle, excluding cows, affected with Tuberculosis is appreciably less than last year. The number of cows affected with the disease, however, has risen to 28.39% which, even with the small number killed, is extremely high, being 5% greater than last year.

Immediately following the War years a practice had sprung up of utilising the already restricted cooling hall at the Abattoir for the purposes of a sales room. This was the subject of many critical reports by the Superintendent and the Meat Inspector, in view of the excessive handling of carcasses and the number of people who visited the cooling hall. The Public Health Committee therefore decided in January to bring in regulations controlling the Abattoir and restricting this practice. This has resulted in a considerable improvement in the hygienic running of the Abattoir.

The old horse-drawn equipment used for many years for the removal of waste products from the Abattoir was replaced, during the year, by trailers and a truck, the latter to be also used for other general duties in the department. The horse was sold to its original owners. This change has eradicated the old manure pit and thus avoided the double handling of offensive material.

**CARCASSES AND OFFAL INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED IN WHOLE OR IN PART
AT CHELTENHAM PUBLIC ABATTOIR
ANNUAL SUMMARY ENDING 31st DECEMBER, 1956**

	Cattle Excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Total
Number killed	3,293	81	2,425	9,774	10,448	26,021
Number inspected	3,293	81	2,425	9,774	10,448	26,021
All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci						
Whole carcasses condemned	3	6	28	3	28	68
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	947	49	11	246	2,060	3,313
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci	29.15%	67.9%	1.61%	2.55%	19.98%	12.99%
Tuberculosis only :						
Whole carcasses condemned	7	4	2	—	8	21
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	150	19	3	1	388	561
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	4.77%	28.39%	0.21%	0.01%	3.79%	2.24%
Cysticercosis						
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	38	1	—	—	—	39
Carcasses submitted to treatment by refrigeration	20	—	—	—	—	20
Generalised and totally condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—

Total Weights of Meat and Organs Rejected, 1956

	Tons	Cwts.	Qrs.	Lbs.	Tons	Cwts.	Qrs.	Lbs.
Bovine								
Meat in Carcass	5	9	3	4				
Meat not in Carcass	1	0	2	5				
Organs and Viscera	9	11	2	15				
TOTAL					16	1	3	24
Ovine								
Meat in Carcass	—	1	2	6				
Meat not in Carcass	—	—	—	21				
Organs and Viscera	—	7	0	2				
TOTAL					—	8	3	1
Swine								
Meat in Carcass	2	3	2	5				
Meat not in Carcass	3	1	3	22				
Organs and Viscera	4	10	3	5				
TOTAL					9	16	1	4
TOTAL CARCASS MEAT	11	17	2	7				
TOTAL ORGANS AND VISCERA	14	9	1	22				
TOTAL CARCASS AND ORGANS	26	7	0	1	26	7	0	1

CYSTICERCUS BOVIS

Thirty-nine cases of cysticercus bovis were diagnosed among cattle slaughtered at the Abattoir during the year 1956. The overall rate of infestation was 1.15%. This was a slight increase as compared with incidence figures of the previous year (0.95%).

REGIONAL INFESTATION

Number Infested

External Masseter Muscles	14
Internal Masseter Muscles	3
Heart Musculature	24
Other Sites	4

CHELTENHAM PUBLIC ABATTOIR
CARCASSES REJECTED AS UNFIT FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION
1956

DISEASES AND CONDITIONS	Bulls	Cows	Heifers	Steers	Calves	Sheep	Pigs	Total
Bruising, extensive & severe ...	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	2
Emaciation, pathological ...	—	1	2	—	—	1	5	9
Fever (including salmonellosis) ...	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	2
Immaturity ...	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
Jaundice ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Metritis, acute septic	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Peritonitis, acute, diffuse, septic ...	—	1	—	—	4	—	4	9
Pleurisy, acute, diffuse, septic ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	2
Pneumonia, acute, septic ...	—	1	—	1	2	—	3	7
Pyæmia, including joint-ill ...	—	—	—	—	17	—	3	20
Septicaemia or toxæmia ...	—	1	—	—	1	1	2	5
Swine erysipelas, acute	—	—	—	—	—	—	8	8
Tuberculosis, generalised ...	—	4	7	—	1	—	8	20
Tuberculosis, congenital ...	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
Uraemia ...	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
TOTALS	—	9	9	1	30	3	37	89

DISPOSAL OF CONDEMNED MEAT

All meat and organs condemned as unfit for human consumption are sold to a firm who guarantee that it is subjected to steam sterilisation. The food content is thus utilised to the maximum advantage, at the same time reducing the risk of infection.

It is essential that all diseased meat should be disposed of in this manner and that none should be allowed to be sold raw in cat and dog meat shops. People who handle such meat seem completely unaware of the great dangers involved and the extensive contamination of vehicles and counters which occurs from contact with such rejected meat when sold in this condition.

WHOLESALE MEAT TRANSPORT VEHICLE

Considerable concern has been felt regarding the transportation of meat and offal from the Abattoir and also from slaughterhouses outside the town into the butchers' shops. All vehicles used for the regular carriage of meat should be specially designed for the purpose and insulated. In the past a great deal of contamination of meat has occurred through piling offal and carcasses on the floor of the van over which the driver has to walk in order to reach certain carcasses.

The Wholesale Meat Company at the Abattoir have, during the year, purchased a new vehicle for the purpose of meat transportation. This vehicle has an all-metal body and loading is carried out from the rear by means of an electrically operated hoist, which allows the meat to be pushed into the vehicle along fixed rails by means of a long metal pole.

This method encourages a high standard of hygiene due to the fact that the whole process of loading, transporting and delivering is carried out without the operator entering the body of the vehicle at any time and it ensures that all carcass meat is properly hung from the roof and not stacked on the floor. Offals are carried in metal containers on the floor.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949

PART 1—RATS AND MICE

	<i>Rats</i>	<i>Mice</i>	<i>Total</i>
1. Complaints Received : ...	241	324	565
2. Number of Premises Inspected :			
(a) As a result of complaint			
Private Dwellings ...		332	
Business Premises ... }			
Premises under Agreement }		99	
Local Authority Properties		7	
		—	440
(b) As routine visit or survey			
Private Dwellings ...		158	
Business Premises ... }			
Premises under Agreement }		68	
Local Authority Properties		27	
		—	253
3. Number of Premises found to be infested :			
	<i>Rats</i>	<i>Mice</i>	
Private Dwellings ...	177	206	383
Business Premises ... }			
Premises under Agreement }	26	76	102
Local Authority Properties	20	8	28
		—	513
4. Number of Visits Paid :			
	<i>Rats</i>	<i>Mice</i>	
(a) For inspection ...	505	349	854
(b) For treatment ...	1804	982	2786
		—	3640
5. Annual Agreements :			
Number in force (1955)	18	(1956)	7
Total Value	£299		£103

6. Sewer Maintenance Treatments :

Total number of manholes in Borough	1657
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Test Bait (April, 1956)

Number of sewer manholes baited	161
" " " where bait taken	40 25%

Maintenance Treatment No. 19 (April-May, 1956)

Number of sewer manholes baited	...	...	...	254
" " " where bait taken	...	...	...	103 41%

Maintenance Treatment No. 20 (October, 1956)

Number of sewer manholes baited	...	...	...	102
" " " where bait taken	...	...	...	54 53%

PART II—OTHER PESTS

1. Complaints received :

<i>Ants/Flies</i>	<i>Beetles</i>	<i>Moles</i>	<i>Pigeons</i>	<i>Rabbits</i>	<i>Wasps</i>	<i>Total</i>
39	28	15	10	15	73	180

2. Number of Visits Paid :

Inspection	35	26	28	8	47	12	156
Treatment	48	59	67	182	18	110	484

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR'S STAFF

as at 31st December, 1956

TECHNICAL

Deputy Chief Public Health Inspector	<i>A. L. Jones, M.A.P.H.I., San.Science R.S.H. *†</i>
District Inspectors	<i>H. Stone, M.A.P.H.I.*†</i> <i>G. J. C. Buck, M.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H.*†</i> <i>A. H. Carling, M.A.P.H.I., A.R.S.H.*†</i> <i>R. J. Wintle, M.A.P.H.I., A.R.S.H.*†</i>
Student	<i>T. W. Camsey</i>

ABATTOIR

Meat Inspector	<i>R. Hullab*†</i>
Superintendent	<i>T. W. Agg</i>
Assistant Superintendent	<i>E. W. Yeates</i>
Driver/Handyman	<i>D. Banyard.</i>
Stoker/Handyman	<i>T. Burford.</i>

*Certified Meat and Food Inspector, R.S.H.

†Public Health Inspector's Education Board Certificate.

DISINFECTION AND DISINFESTATION

Disinfection Officer	<i>G. Cross.</i>
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DRAIN-TESTING, ETC.

Operator	<i>W. Taylor</i>
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RODENT CONTROL

Pests Officer	<i>A. Anson.</i>
Operators	<i>G. Richardson.</i> <i>H. J. Nunney.</i>

CLERICAL

Senior Clerk	<i>D. Y. Harrison.</i>
Clerical Assistant	<i>Mrs. M. Rogers</i>
Chief Public Health Inspector's Secretary	<i>Miss M. E. J. Edden.</i>
Shorthand-Typist	<i>Miss G. Kear.</i>
Junior Clerk	<i>Miss B. A. Reynolds.</i>

